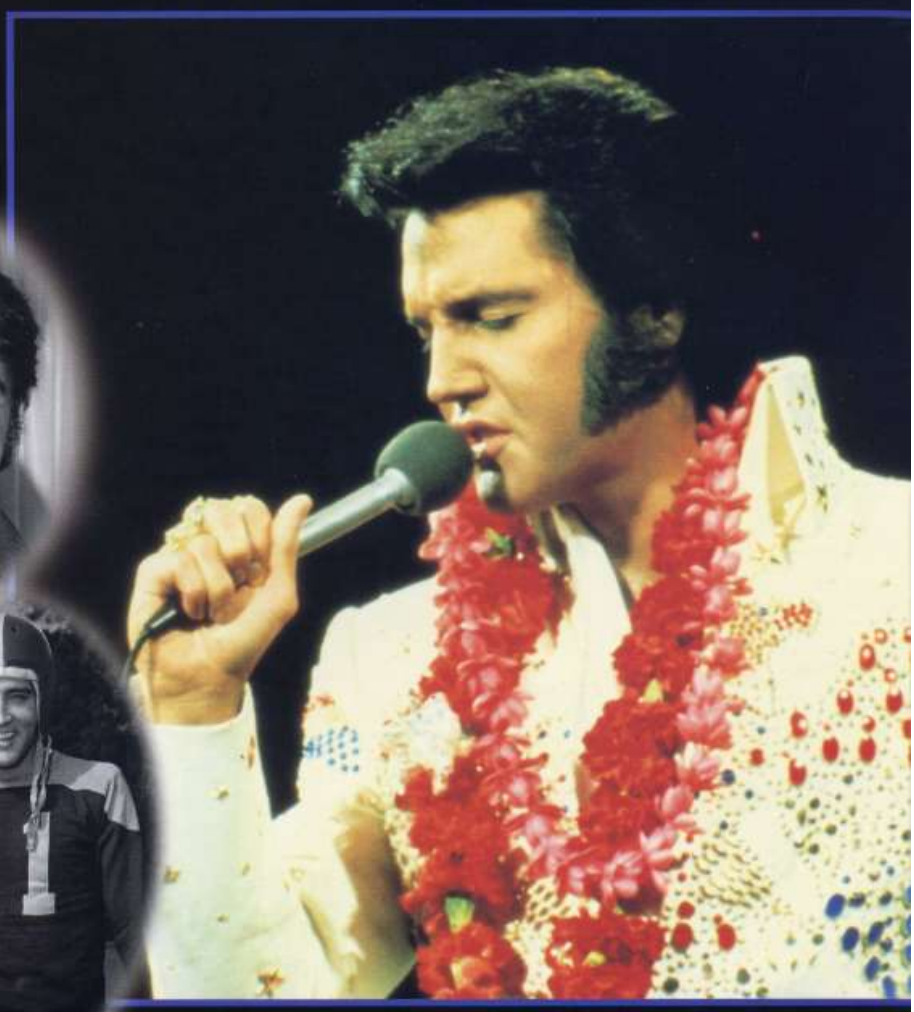
ELVIS...

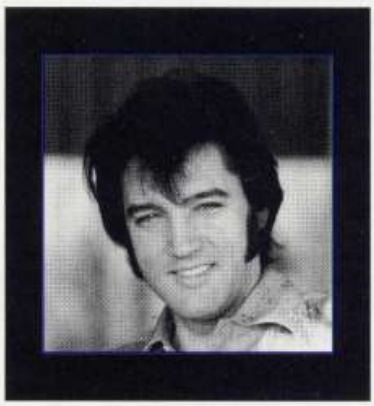
Intimate & Rare

Memories & Photos from the Personal Collection of Joe Esposito



Written by Joe Esposito & Darwin Lamm

To Sam,



ELVIS...
INTIMATE AND RARE

Keep Rockin'

Joe E

4.10.98

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CREATIVE DIRECTOR
AND PUBLISHER:
Darwin Lamm

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Kristen Vano

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MEMO FROM THE PUBLISHER

Recently, while I was at Joe's house doing an interview for the magazine, Elvis International Forum, Joe brought out some boxes full of candid snapshots from his personal collection. I started looking through the first box and was amazed at all the personal photos of Elvis. I said to Joe, "The fans have got to see these! It's a side of Elvis they've never seen before. Here were photos of Elvis having fun on the movie set, at the wedding and on his last vacation." Needless to say, I was very excited and felt that Joe needed to share these with the fans. You will find this book entertaining, as well as informative, as Joe expresses his personal memories with each picture. I personally feel, this book is for the avid fans who want to see the personal side of Elvis through pictures and memories, without the exaggeration and hype. It is . . . a refreshing look at the side of Elvis we call "Intimate and Rare."

Through the 17 years I worked with Elvis, I found his greatest strength was his personality. He could make people laugh and he was a very warm person. Whether it was on the road or on a movie set, we always found time to have fun. These rare, intimate candid photos are from my personal collection while at work and play. You will see some professional photos, and read about many fond memories. You will also see candid snapshots, not always the best in quality, but they show a side of Elvis never seen before . . .

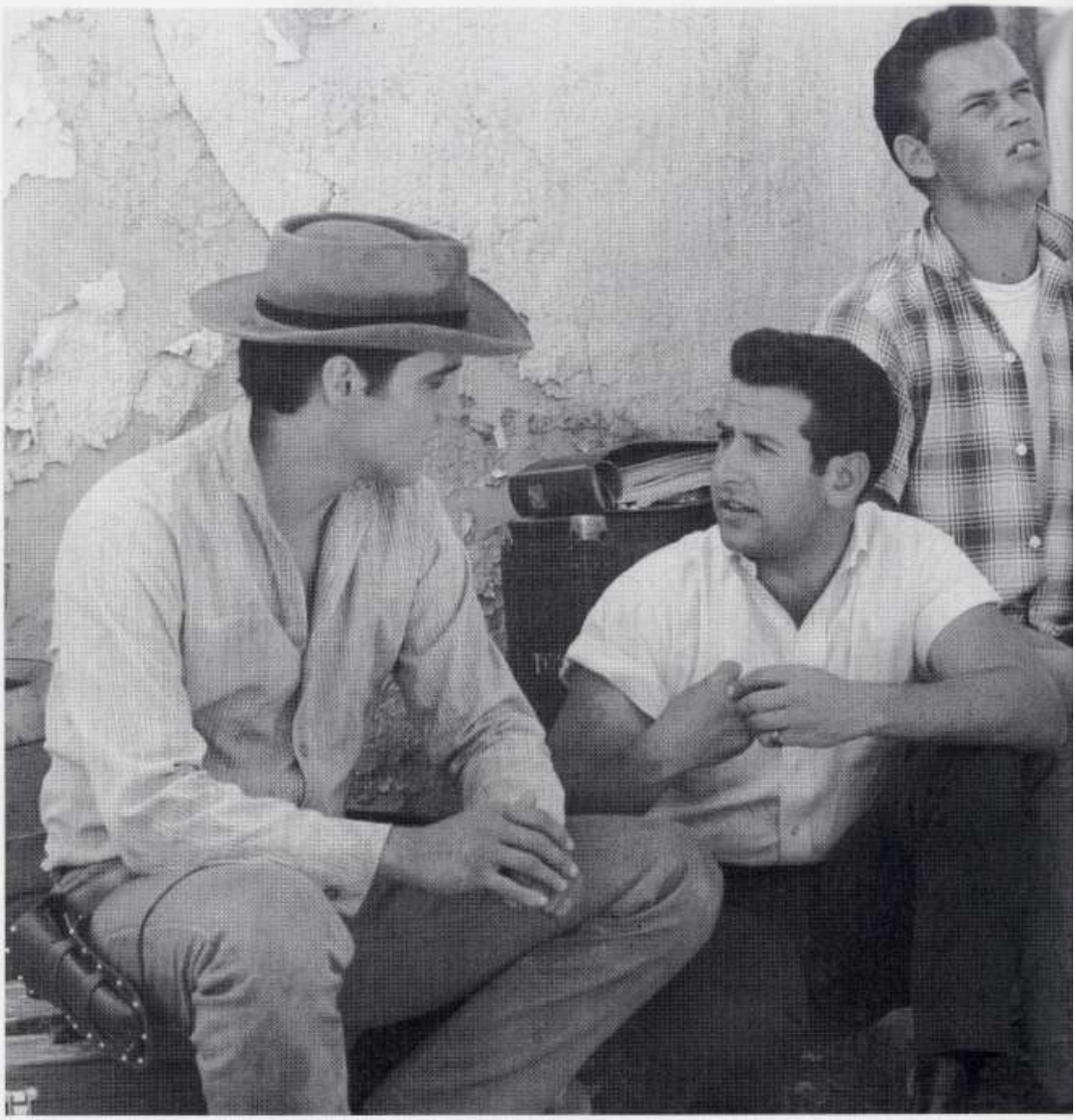
I hope you enjoy: **ELVIS - INTIMATE AND RARE**

MOVIES

Elvis told me, when he was in his teens, he would always go to the movies and watch them over and over. He knew that someday, he would be making movies too. Even after he became a star himself, he always wanted to see the latest films. That's why, when we were in Memphis, we would rent the Memphian Theater all night and watch movies. He would invite all his friends to join him. *Elvis* had his favorite actors he looked up to; *Marlon Brando, James Dean, Tony Curtis, Clark Gable* and *James Stewart.*

Elvis got excited when he met a movie star that he'd seen on the big screen when he was an usher at the theater. (Note: April 17, 1952, *Elvis* obtained a part-time job at Loew's State Theater. He was fired when he punched a fellow usher for telling the manager that he was getting free candy from the girl at the concession stand.) Later on, many of the stars would come on the movie set to meet *Elvis*, this new, young kid from the south. It was common in those days for many of the actors to visit other sets when they were doing a movie at the studio; for example, *John Wayne* dropped by a couple of times and so did *Warren Beatty*. I remember *Warren* would just stand at the back of the set and watch. We always had a lot of females working on our pictures and I think he was there to look at the girls.

On movie sets, we had to sit around a lot and *Elvis* would pull jokes on different people...like *Bill Reynolds (Debbie Reynolds'* brother), who was *Elvis'* make-up man on many of his movies. He's a real nice guy and good friend of ours. *Elvis* pulled several jokes on him, such as filling up his car with popcorn. I remember one time a snake was thrown into the dressing room, and of course we had many whipped cream and water fights. *Elvis* was definitely a big kid, and we had a lot of fun on the movie sets.



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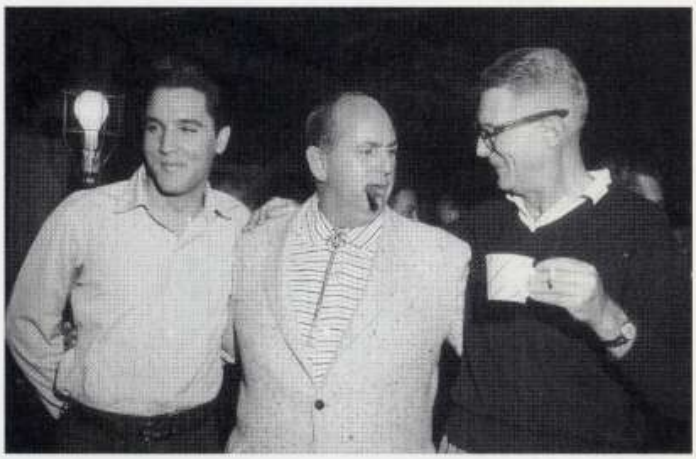
FLAMING STAR

Released December 1960
Twentieth Century-Fox: produced by David Weisbart, directed by Don Siegel, starring Elvis Presley, Steve Forrest, Barbara Eden, Dolores Del Rio, John McIntyre.

I was asking *Elvis* something about Karate. He just finished giving a karate demonstration with *Sonny West*, (sitting behind me). I don't remember what I asked, but I'm sure it had something to do with his knuckle's. This was during the making of *"Flaming Star"* for 20th Century Fox pictures.



WILD IN THE COUNTRY

Released June 1961
Twentieth Century-Fox: produced by Jerry Wald, directed by Philip Dunne, starring Elvis Presley, Hope Lange, Tuesday Weld, Millie Perkins, Rafer Johnson.

L to R: Elvis, The Colonel and *Philip Dunne*, the director. Taken during one of the breaks on *"Wild in the Country"* at 20th Century Fox studios. This was one of *Elvis'* more serious roles. There wasn't much horsing around on this set.

BLUE HAWAII

Released November 1961

Paramount: Produced by Hal Wallis, directed by Norman Traurog, starring Elvis Presley, Joan Blackman, Nancy Walters, Roland Winters, Angela Lansbury.

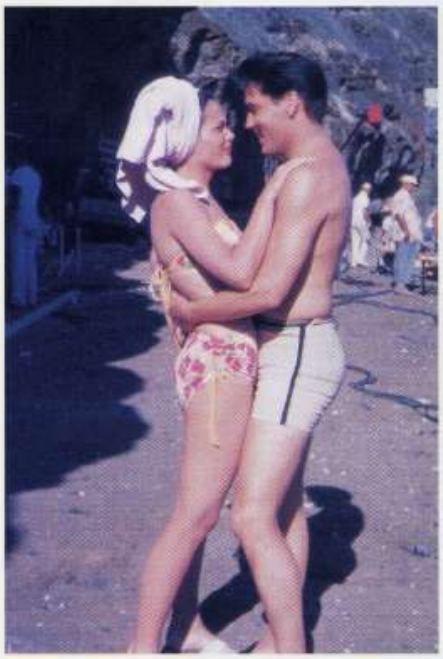
above left: Elvis and *Darlene Tompkins*, one of his co-stars, posing for a fan, *me*.

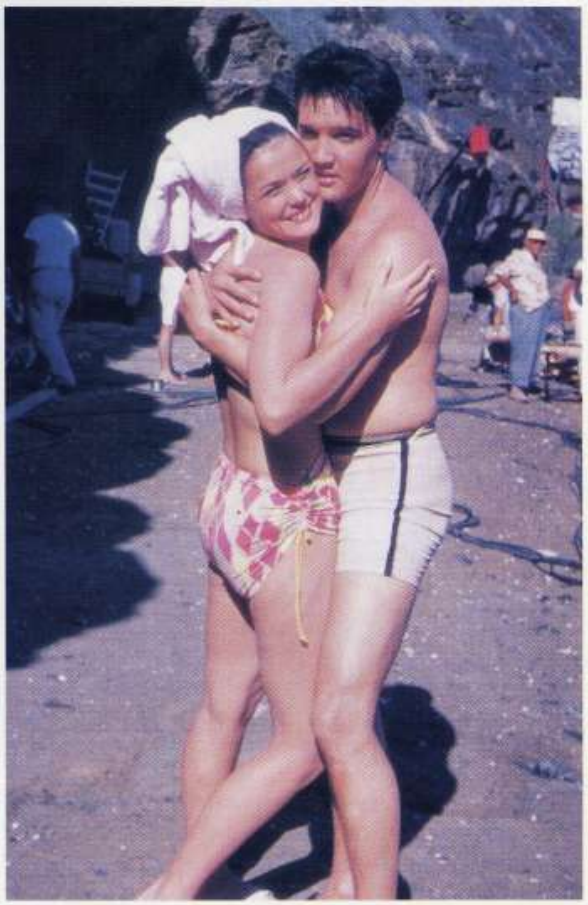
above right: Alan Fortas pretending to play an accordion for *Elvis* and *Joan Blackman*. *The Colonel* put *Alan* into a trance and had him doing silly things all day. *Alan* was a good sport. *L to R: Joan Blackman, Elvis* and *Alan Fortas*.

I took this shot while they were getting ready to shoot a scene for the movie on the beach in front of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel . *Elvis* is suppose to be showing the girls how to surf. Of course in real life *Elvis* never surfed at all. You can see all the tourist's watching the filming in the background.

Elvis fooling around. He put a plastic hat on his head and pulled it down real hard and broke it. He was just being a big kid.

Elvis and *Joan Blackman* between takes on location at the beach. I think they were going over their lines?

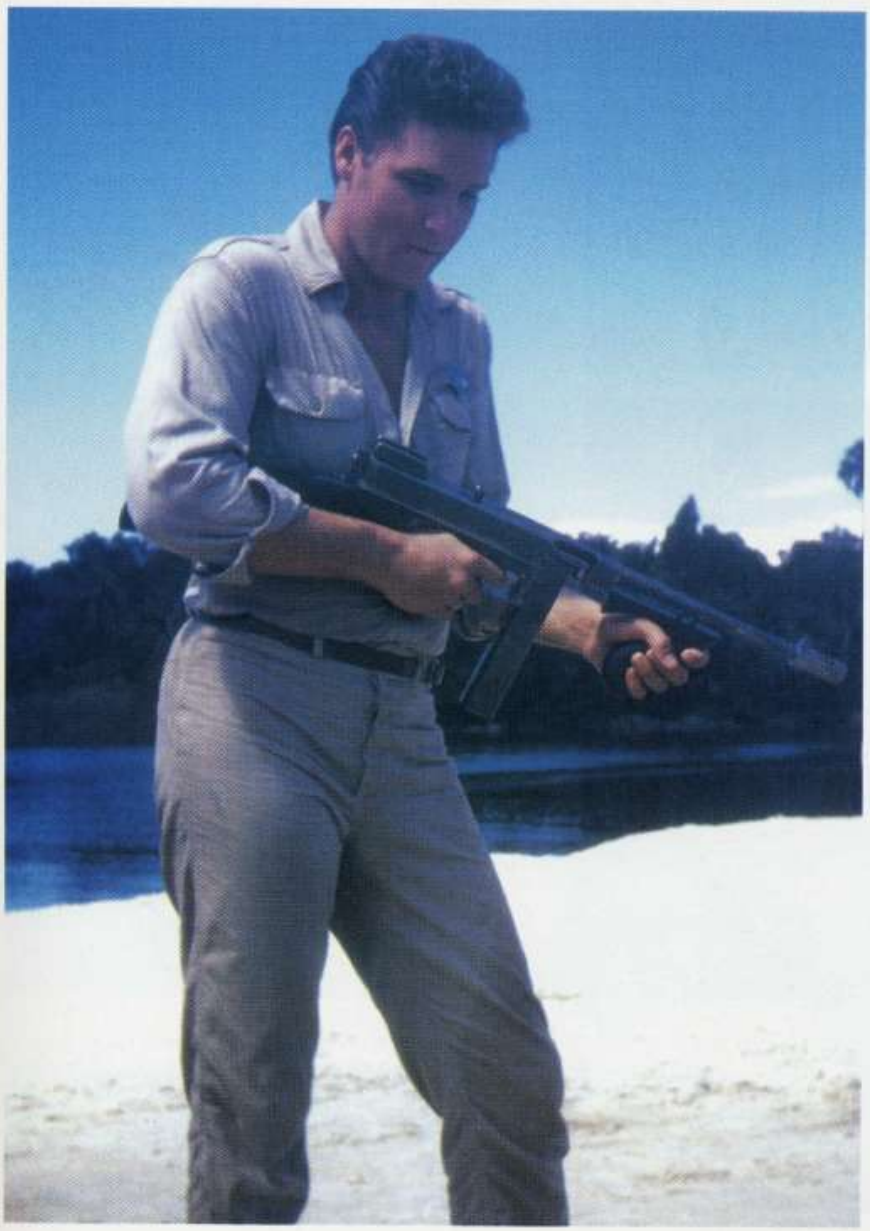




FOLLOW THAT DREAM

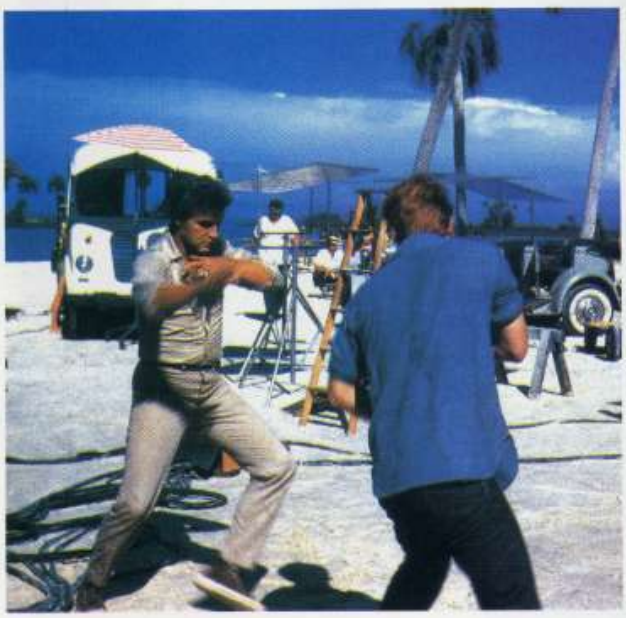
Released March 1962

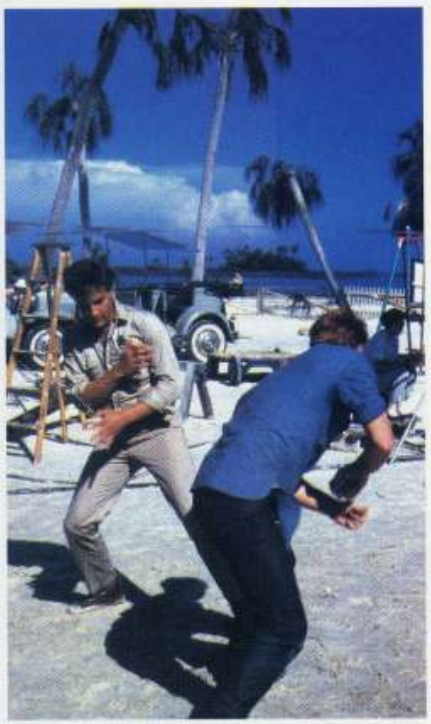
United Artist: Produced by David Weisbart, directed by Boris Sagal, starring Elvis Presley, Shelly Fabares, Harold J. Stone, Gary Crosby, Mary Ann Mobley.



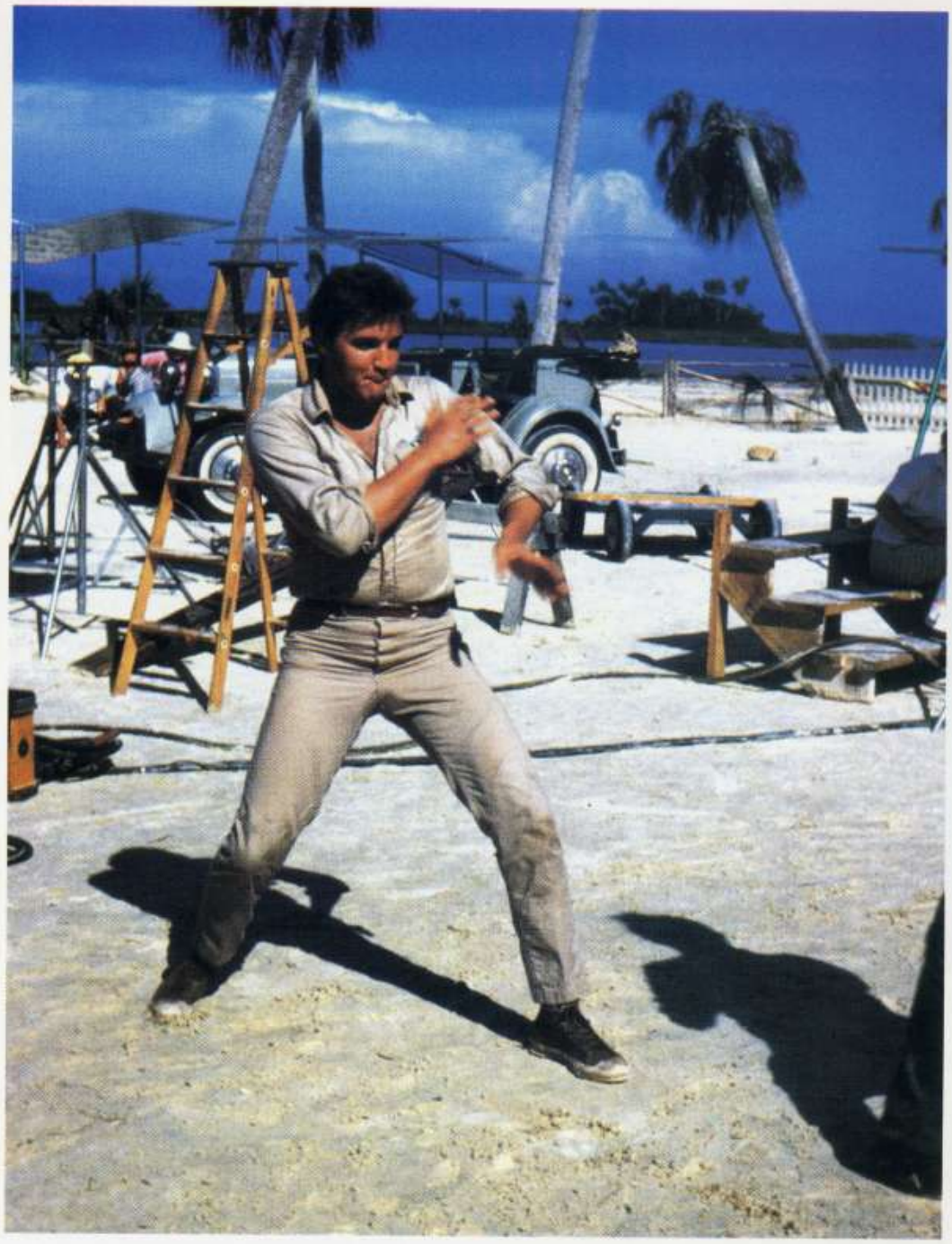
Elvis playing with a Thompson Sub-machine gun. It was for the movie, but I swear *Elvis* was thinking, "I know, I'll get rid of all the guys who work for me".

Elvis relaxing between takes. You never saw this too often. This is a rare shot.



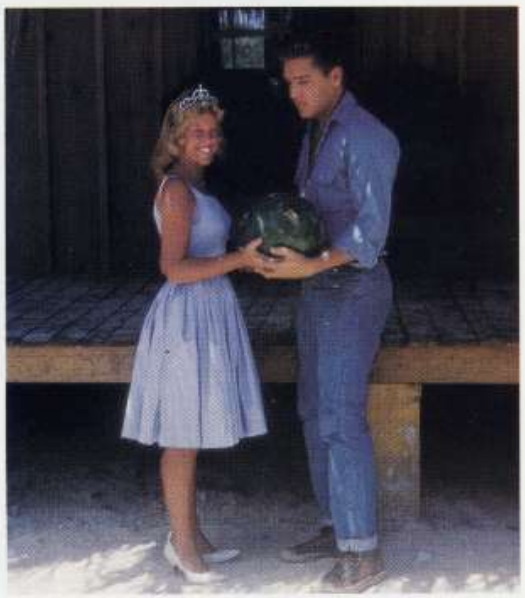


Elvis giving a karate demonstration on the set of *"Follow That Dream"*. He and *Red* worked out a lot of the sets. The background is a beautiful beach. Only *"Hollywood"* would go on location to Florida and build a new beach just for the movie. They even brought their own palm trees.



Elvis looking through the movie camera at the next shot.

Elvis shaking hands with some of the fans. He always had time for them. *Arthur O'Connell* is standing on *Elvis'* left . He's the one in the shorts and hat.



Elvis receiving a Florida watermelon from *Miss Watermelon* of Florida. Elvis is wearing blue jeans in these pictures. He had to wear them for the movie. He didn't like blue jeans. They reminded him of the days when his parents were very poor and that's all he had to wear. When he became famous, he never wore them again.

KID GALAHAD

Released July 1962

United Artist: produced by David Weisbart, directed by Phil Karlson, starring Elvis Presley, Gig Young, Lola Albright, Joan Blackman, Charles Bronson.

L to R., Bitsy Mott, (the Col.'s brother in law) *Tom Diskin, David Weisbart,* the producer, *The Colonel, Elvis, Phil Karlson,* the director and unknown. This was right after the signing to do *"Kid Galahad"* for United Artist. They are holding onto the contract. *Elvis* really enjoyed making this movie. He liked boxing. We shot this movie on location in Idlewild, Ca.

GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS!

Released November 1962

Paramount: produced by Hal Wallis, directed by Norman Traurog, starring Elvis Presley, Stella Stevens, Laurel Goodwin, Jeremy Slate.

right: Elvis just throwing the football.

below: Elvis is showing **Laura Goodwin**, his co-star, how to throw a football. The location was on the Big Island of Hawaii. *L to R. Elvis, Alan Fortas* sitting in the chair next to *Laura Goodwin.*

This is a shot that I asked *Elvis* to take of me and some of my fans. The girls are from my Hawaiian fan club. "Don't I wish." *L to R.*, Fan #1, Fan #2, *Elvis*, Fan #3, *me*, *Marty Lacker*, and Fan #4.

A good shot of *Elvis* on location.

IT HAPPENED AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

Released April 1963

MGM: produced by Ted Richmond, directed by Norman Taurog, starring Elvis Presley,Joan O'Brien, Gary Lockwood, Vicky Tiu.

Elvis in his movie wardrobe getting ready to do a scene.

Elvis in another scene from the movie. I think he was calling his bookie between takes. Only kidding.

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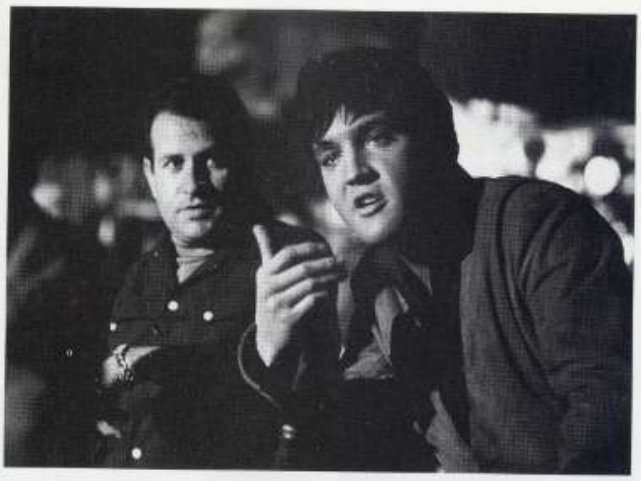


Elvis and me sitting around talking to some of the movie crew.

Elvis and *me* with the other guys behind us walking to a location at the Fair.

L to R, Sid Mintz, the script supervisor, *Elvis* and *Gary Lockwood.* Just a shot between takes.

opposite page: Elvis walking through a screen door. A scene from the movie.

On location at the Seattle World's Fair in 1962. Walking back to the dressing room from the set, *Elvis* stopped to talk to a fan. *L to R. Bitsy Mott, Richard Davis, Fan, Elvis* and *Billy Smith.* We all wore black jumpsuits so *Elvis* could easily spot us in a crowd.

L to R. Elvis, Ray Sitten standing, *Gary Lockwood,* co-star and *me* sitting. We were just sitting around shooting the breeze. *Gary Lockwood* was dating *Tuesday Weld* at this time. *Gary* loved to play poker as did many of us guys. He would have us over to his house for some friendly games. *Elvis* never attended. *Elvis* did not play poker.

I have no idea what we are looking at? *L to R: Ray Sitten, Gene Smith, Elvis, Red West, me, Richard Davis* and *Jim Kingsley.* This movie was my acting debut, if you can call it that. I played a barker at one of the stands at the fair where *Elvis* wins a big, stuffed dog for a little girl he was taking through the fair.

FUN IN ACAPULCO

Released November 1963

Paramount: produced by Hal Wallis, directed by Richard Thorpe, starring Elvis Presley, Ursula Andress, Elsa Cardenas, Paul Lukas.

The Colonel gave *Elvis* a golf kart to drive around the studio during the making of his movies. This was during the making of *"Fun In Acapulco"* at Paramount Studios. Taken in front of *Elvis'* dressing room. *L to R. Abe Lastfogel, Elvis, Billy Smith, Tom Diskin, The Col., Gene Smith, Freddie Beanstalk* and *me.*

Another birthday party. I think this was for one of *Elvis'* co-stars. This was during *"Fun in Acapulco" L to R., Billy Smith, Jim Kingsley, Elvis* and the *Colonel.*

ROUSTABOUT

Released November 1964
Paramount: produced by Hal Wallis, directed by John Rich, starring Elvis Presley, Barbara Stanwyck, Joan Freeman, Leif Erickson, Sue Ane Langdon.

The movie set of *"Roustabout"* a Paramount picture in 1964. Celebrating *Col. Tom Parker's* birthday? *L to R., Jim Kingsley, Richard Davis, Nick Adams* , the actor, *Mrs. Marie Parker, Billy Smith, The Col. Elvis, me, Alan Fortas* and *Marty Lacker.*

SPINOUT

Released October 1966
MGM: produced by Joe Pasternak, directed by Norman Taurog, starring Elvis Presley, Shelley Fabares, Diane McBain, Deborah Walley.

Elvis standing in front of the infamous 1960 Gold Cadillac Limousine he had *George Barris* custom build for him. This car in on display at the Country Hall of Fame Museum in Nashville. This picture was taken right after RCA gave *Elvis* some awards and more Gold Records. They presented them on the set of *"Spinout"*.

CLAMBAKE

Released October 1967
United Artist: produced by Arnold Laven, Arthur Gardner, and Jules Levy, directed by Arthur Nadel, starring Elvis Presley, Shelley Fabares, Will Hutchins, Bill Bixby.

Me, Elvis and *Shelley Fabares* on the set of *Clambake.*

STAY AWAY, JOE

Released March 1968

MGM: produced by Douglas Laurence, directed by Peter Tewksbury, starring Elvis Presley, Burgess Meredith, Joan Blondell. Katy Jurado.

This film was made during the summer of 1967. It was filmed on location in Sedona, Arizona, one of the most beautiful places in the United States. All the mountains around this valley are red. The studio rented us a house on the river that ran through the valley. At the time there was only one motel in town, so the cast and crew stayed at the motel. Everyday we would drive 45 minutes to the location, which was in the middle of nowhere. The studio had built a house just for the movie. It was rigged to fall apart during a fight scene in the movie. We spent about three weeks on location.

above: L to R, Priscilla, Elvis, Joan and *The Colonel.*

above right: Just sitting around waiting for next scene. Actors sit around waiting for most of the day. *L to R, Priscilla, Elvis, Joan , my wife* and *The Colonel* sitting. Right above *Joan* is *Charlie Hodge.*

below right: L to R. Priscilla, Elvis, Joan and *The Colonel.*

LIVE A LITTLE, LOVE A LITTLE

Released October 1968

MGM: Produced by Douglas Laurence, directed by Norm,an Taurog, starring Elvis Presley, Michele Carey, Don Porter, Rudy Valley, Dick Sargent.

This photo was taken in 1968 while we were making, *"Live a Little, Love a Little"* for MGM. The director asked *Elvis* if it was okay to use his father *Vernon* for a scene in the movie. Of course, *Elvis* loved it. He knew his dad would get a kick out of being in the movie. *Elvis* portrayed a photographer in the movie and *Vernon* was one of his models.

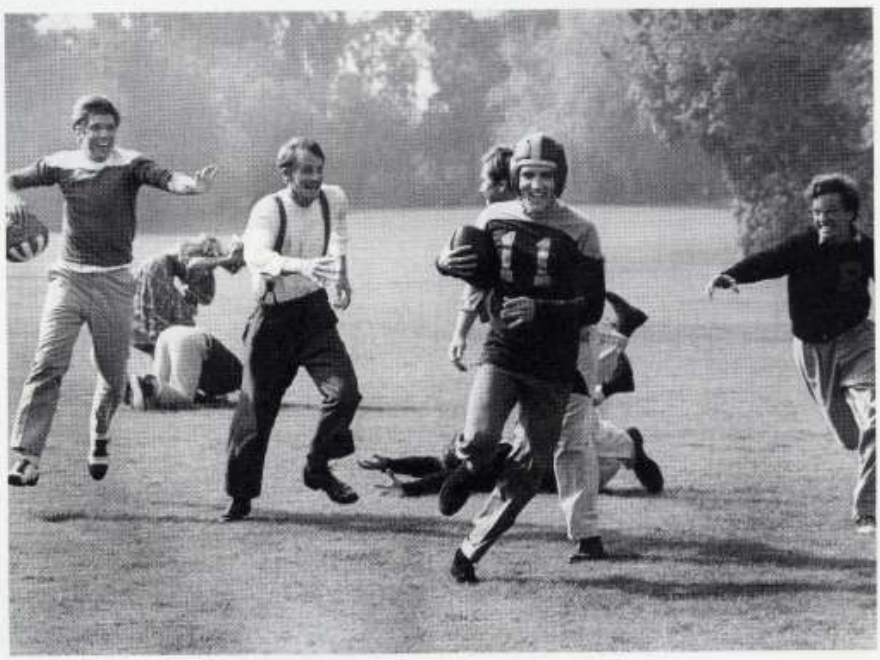
March, 1968, on a beach in Malibu, Ca. The movie was *"Live a Little , Love a Little"* *Elvis* was taking a cigar break. That's *me* and *Alan Fortas* with him. *Elvis* liked his cigars.

THE TROUBLE WITH GIRLS

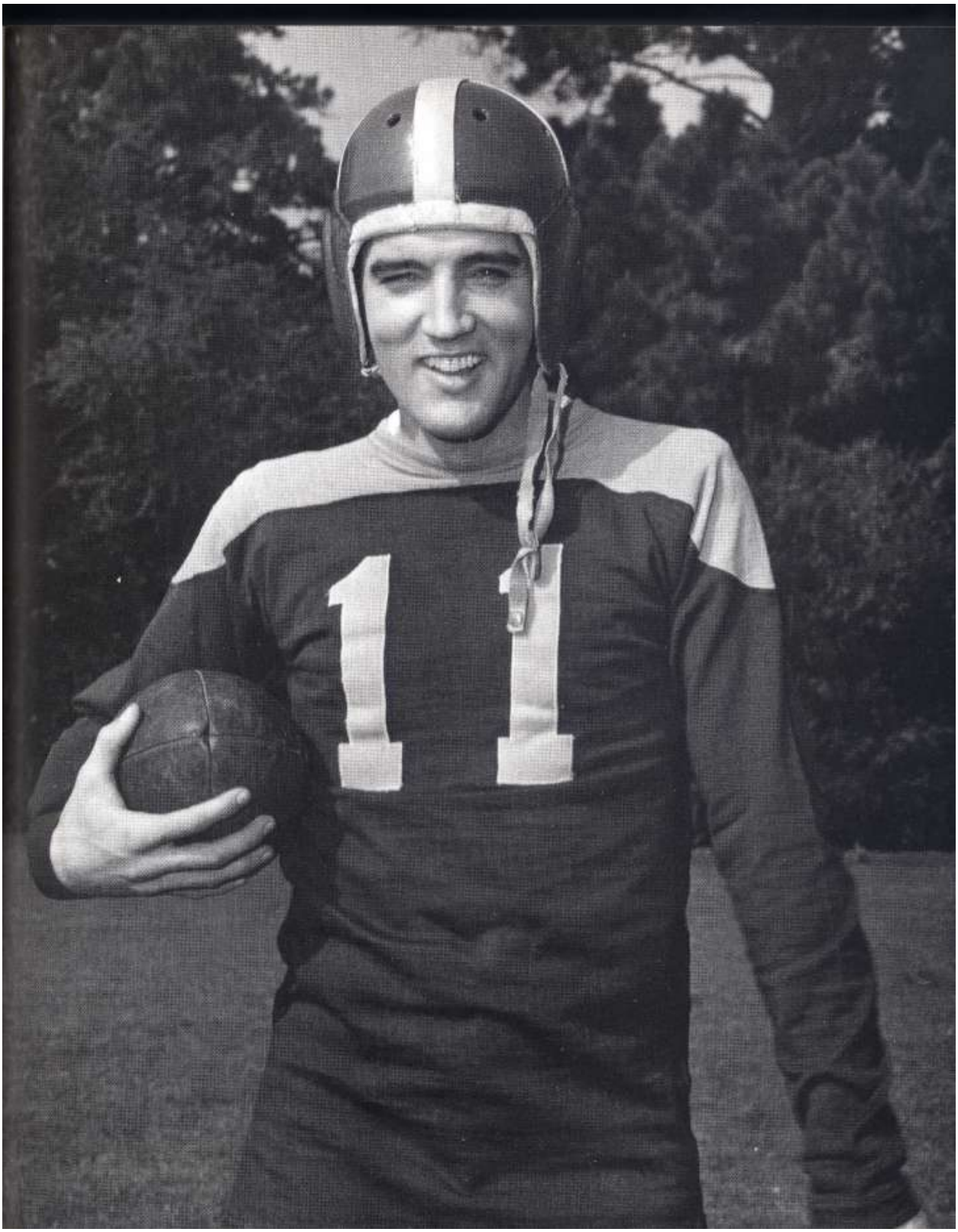
Released May 1969
MGM: produced by Lester Welch, directed by Peter Tewksbury, starring Elvis Presley, Marlyn Mason, Nicole Jaffee, Sheree North.

Marlyn Mason and *Elvis.;* posing like Bonnie and Clyde. These two had a great time making this movie. The movie was not one of *Elvis"* better movies but he had fun making it.

This is one of the scene's from the movie. *Elvis* liked shooting this scene, he got to make a touchdown.



opposite page: I think this shot of *Elvis* is great. You can tell by his smile that he was having a good time. He looks happy.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THAT'S THE WAY IT IS

Released November 1970
MGM: produced by Herbert F. Soklow, directed by Denis Sanders. Documentary.

A dramatic shot of *Elvis* on stage, from *"That's The Way It Is"*, at the International Hotel, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Elvis rehearsing a song for *"That's the Way it Is."*, at the International Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

below: This was taken during the filming of the MGM movie, *"That's the Way it Is."*. It was shot during one of the rehearsal scenes at the MGM Studio Recording Stages 1 AND 1-A, in Culver City, CA.

ELVIS & CELEBRITIES

Elvis met many celebrities in Hollywood and on the road. People like *Dean Martin, Tony Curtis, Edward G. Robinson, John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, Jean Simmons, Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable*, etc. Elvis was just like any other fan. He grew up idolizing these stars and now he was one of them himself. There were many stars he idolized that he never got to meet; *Marlon Brando* and *James Dean*. He did become friends with *Nick Adams*, who was a very good friend of *Deans*, and would ask *Nick* a lot of questions concerning *Dean*.

Many of the celebrities wanted to meet this new superstar. They were very curious. They would come to the movie sets and stand in the back and watch *Elvis* work. *Red Skeleton* came to visit *Elvis* at the studio one day and asked *Elvis* if he could bring his son to meet him. Of course, *Elvis* said "Yes".

In 1969 *Elvis* started performing at the International Hotel in Las Vegas and there were many celebrities who would come to see his show. After the show many of them would come backstage to say hello. A big fan of *Elvis* was *Sammy Davis, Jr.* He was always coming to see *Elvis* and was a great audience for *Elvis* because he couldn't sit still while *Elvis* was performing. *Elvis* and *Sammy* became good friends and hung out together while in Las Vegas. Thanks to *Elvis* I had the opportunity to meet, and became friends with, many of these celebrities as well.

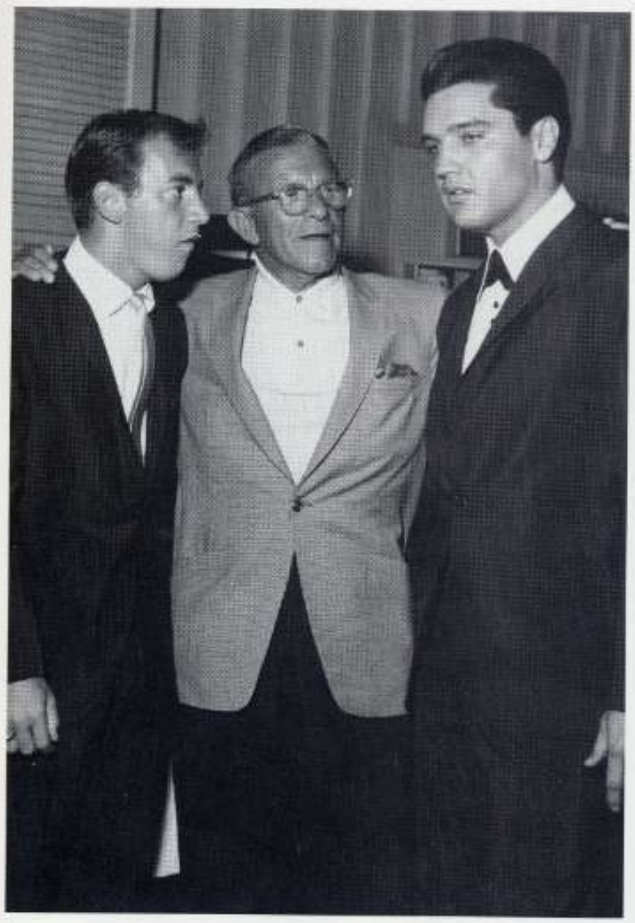
The Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, was our hangout in the early 1960's. We would go there to party for a couple of days and end up staying for weeks. We never wanted to leave that town. Those were the days when the town had the greatest entertainers in the world, playing every hotel. The Rat Pack (*Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop*, and *Peter Lawford*) would play at the Sands Hotel. *Elvis* loved going there to see them. We would go to some shows twice. That's when Las Vegas was the "Real Vegas', not like today.

Elvis didn't feel as if any singers were his competition because he felt that everyone was an individual; if you liked one particular singer, fine . . . everyone was different. For example, he wasn't worried when *Tom Jones* became popular, he felt there was enough room for everyone.

Tom and *Elvis* became good friends over the years. *Elvis* liked the way *Tom* sang and how he sang with so much feeling. They met in 1968 in Las Vegas. *Tom* was playing the Flamingo Hotel, and we went to the show. *Elvis* went back stage after the show and they hit it off right away. *Tom* was a big fan of *Elvis'*. They sat for hours and talked about the music business and the old rock-and-roll songs. That was also the same evening these pictures were taken. I allowed Peter Borsari to take the picture.

Elvis and *Tom Jones*, in Tom's dressing room at the Flamingo Hotel, June 19, 1969.

Photo's by Peter Borsari



Bobby Darin and *Elvis*. *Elvis* was a very big fan of *Bobby's*. *Elvis* felt that he was a very talented performer. Whenever *Bobby* was performing, we would go see his show. If you look close at *Elvis'* face, you will notice that his right jaw is slightly swollen. He had an abscessed tooth.

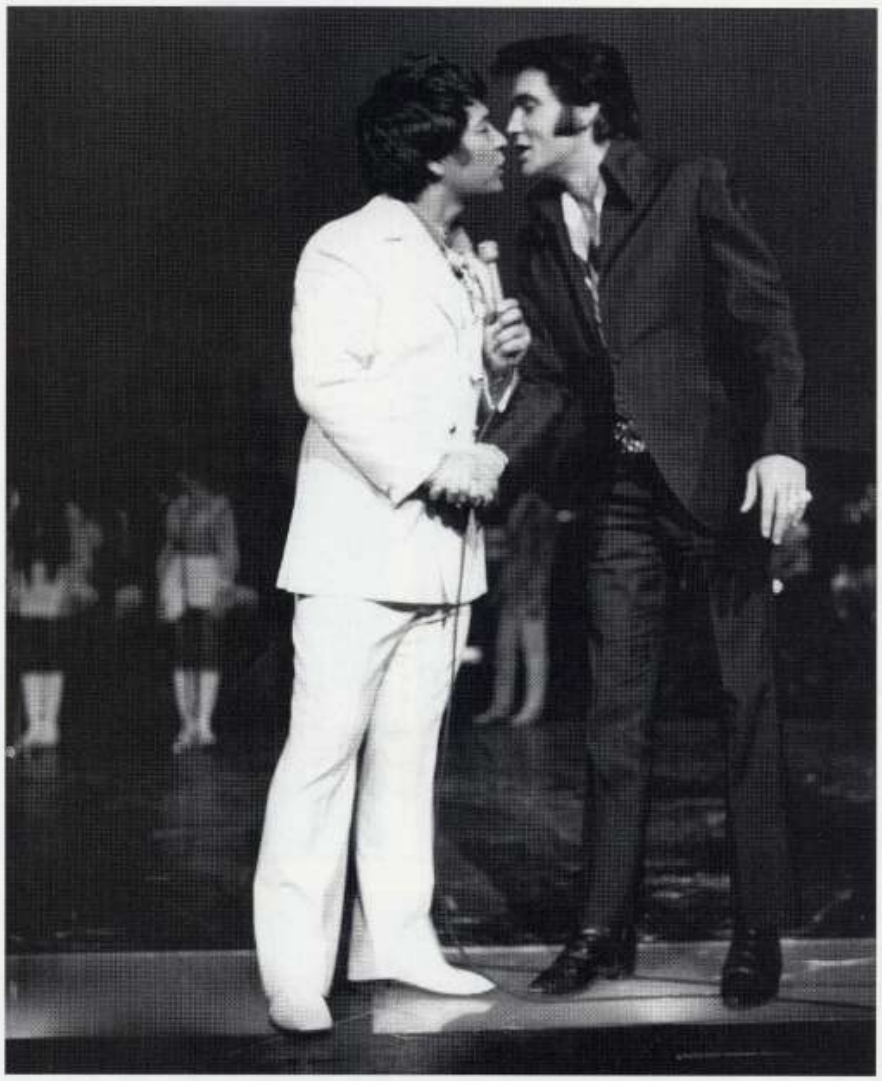
L to R: *Bobby Darin*, the Great *George Burns*, and *Elvis*. These were taken at a birthday party for the actor *Gene Barry*. *Gene* was at the Sahara Hotel and *Mr. Milton Prell*, owner of the hotel, invited *Elvis* and the guys to the party. *Mr. Prell* was the gentleman who later bought the Aladdin Hotel where *Elvis* and *Priscilla* got married. *Mr. Prell* was also a very good friend of the *Colonel*.

Bobby Darin, Mr. Prell's daughter (I don't remember her name) and *Elvis*.

Elvis talking to *Jean Simmons* on the set of Jailhouse Rock in 1957. Damn, *Elvis* was a good looking man, and she's not bad either!

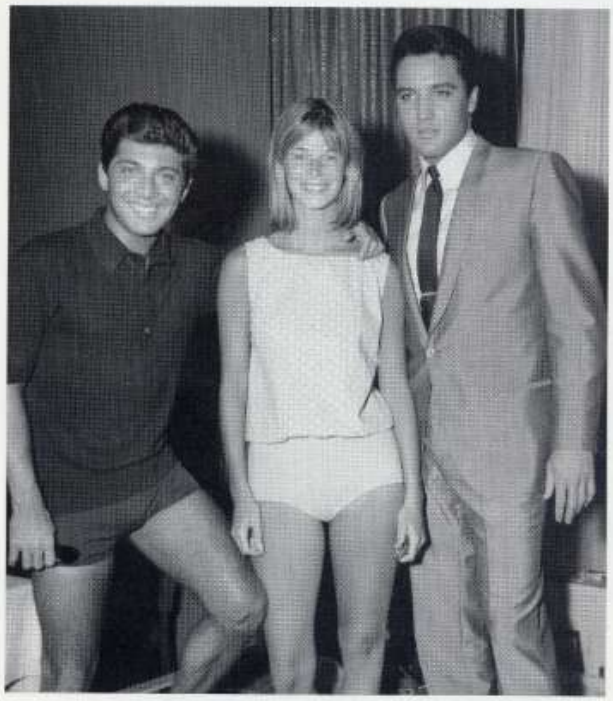
"Speedway" - 1968, *Don Sutton* the famous young pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers wanted to meet *Elvis*. *Larry Jost* happened to be friends with *Don Sutton*, so he brought *Don* on the set. It was his rookie year. *L to R: Jerry Schilling, Marty Lacker, Larry Jost, Elvis, Don Sutton, & Richard Davis.* In front: *George Klein* and *me*.

above: In 1964, *Elvis* got to meet the great *Jim Brown*. The greatest running back in football history, who played for the Cleveland Browns. When *Jim Brown* was playing for the Browns, I would contact their office and they would send a complete set of the past seasons game films. *Elvis* loved just to watch *Jim Brown* run. We stayed up many nights watching those films. *Rick Husky*, a good friend of ours, set up the meeting with *Jim Brown* while we were at Paramount studios filming "Roustabout". *Jim* came by on his way from 20th Century Fox, where he was shooting a movie. L to R: *Billy Smith, Alan Fortas, Richard Davis, Jim, Elvis, me, Marty Lacker* and *Jim Kingsley*.



Don Ho and *Elvis* on stage at the Las Vegas Hilton. *Don* was performing there and we went to see his show. From the stage, *Don* introduced *Elvis* and asked *Elvis* if he would join him on stage. *Elvis* did, and they talked awhile and *Don* asked *Elvis* before he left to give him a kiss on the cheek. *Elvis* being a good sport, started to kiss him on the cheek, but *Don* turned to face *Elvis* and that's when a hotel photographer took the picture. It looks like *Elvis* is kissing *Don Ho*. We found out later that this is part of *Don's* show. I made the photographer give me the negative.

Paul Anka, his wife, *Ann*, and *Elvis*. Taken during our filming of "Viva Las Vegas" in Las Vegas in 1963. *Paul* was playing one of the Hotels and he came over to the set to meet *Elvis*. Whenever *Paul* was in town, he would come to see *Elvis*' show and we became friends. *Elvis* gave *Paul* a nickname, *"Ratzo"* from the movie, "Midnight Cowboy". *Paul* looked like Dustin Hoffman when he wore a certain hat that he had. *Elvis* would introduce him from the stage as *Paul "Ratzo" Anka*. It was an inside joke. *Paul* was always trying to write a song for *Elvis*, but it never worked out, but *Paul* was thrilled when *Elvis* recorded "My Way."



L to R: Elvis, crew member, *Pat Boone* and *Sonny West*. This was taken during the filming of "Wild In The Country," at 20th Century Fox studios. *Pat* and *Elvis* were old friends. They met back in the late 1950's, and later on in the early '60s, *Pat* played football with us at the park on Beverly Glen Blvd., in Los Angeles.

Las Vegas in the early 1970's. This was taken at the Dessert Inn Hotel where *Jimmy Durante* and *Sonny King* were playing. *Sonny* was the opening act for *Jimmy*. *Jackie Leonard*, the comedian, was in the audience at the same show. We all met back stage. *L to R: Jimmy Durante, Elvis, Jackie Leonard*, and *Sonny King*.

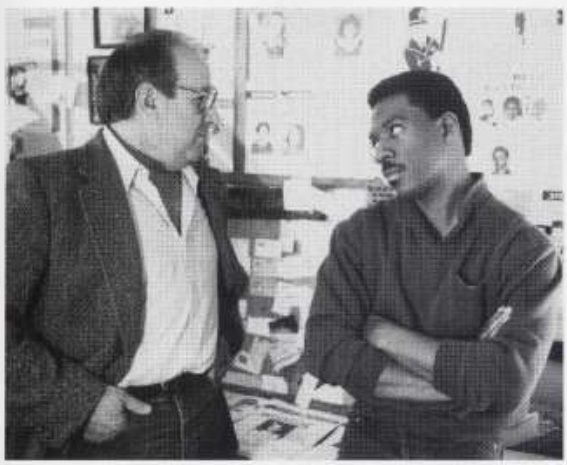
above: On the set of "GI Blues" at Paramount studios in the early 1960s. *Tennessee Ernie Ford* and *Minnie Pearl* stopped by to visit with *Elvis*. They knew *Elvis* before he went into the Army. *Minnie Pearl* was the opening act for a show *Elvis* did in Memphis after he got out of the Army.

right: Tuesday Weld and *me* on the set of "Wild in the Country." *Tuesday* was a great girl. She was wild and crazy like *Elvis*. They dated during the filming of this picture, and she became like one of the gang. All the guys in the group liked her. She and *Alan Fortas* became very good friends. They both loved dogs and she gave *Alan* a beautiful white German Shepherd as a gift.

On the set of "Wild in the Country", *Johnny Mathis* came to visit *Elvis*. *Elvis* liked Johnny's singing and we caught his show several times when he played Las Vegas. *L to R:* sitting - *Elvis*, *Johnny*, and his manager at the time (I don't remember her name). *Elvis* looks like he's really listening!

This was taken in Long Beach, CA. on the waterfront. *Elvis* and the *Colonel* gave *Danny Thomas* the yacht that once belonged to President Roosevelt. The Potomac is a 65 foot yacht. *Danny Thomas* then sold the boat and put the money into St. Judes. *Elvis* always donated to various charities, but there was no one favorite. *Elvis* usually gave to the "United Way" in Memphis, who represented over 50 charities. He also gave to the homeless, the poor and the disabled. He was always there to help. *L to R: Tom Diskin, Alan Fortas, Richard Davis, Danny Thomas, Elvis*, unknown, and *me*.

L to R: Me, Elvis, Alan Fortas, Marty Lacker, Jim Kingsley, Danny Thomas, Richard Davis, and *Ed Hookstratten, Elvis'* attorney and friend. We are all dressed in our hoodlum suits. Black mohair and white shirt and ties. We just flew in from Las Vegas for the day and flew right back.



Eddie Murphy and me on the Set of "The Golden Child". *Eddie Murphy* is a big *Elvis* fan, he loved *Elvis*. *Stan Brossette*, a publicity man for the studios who worked on many of *Elvis*' pictures introduced me to *Eddie*. *Eddie* made an announcement to everybody on the set, telling them who I was, and I got so embarrassed. *Eddie* is a very nice guy. We just talked for the whole day about my working for *Elvis* and what he was like, professionally as well as personally. It brought back lots of memories . . . it was a great day for me.

above: Elvis and *Roy Hamilton*, the singer. Taken at a recording studio in Memphis. *Elvis* and *Roy* were both recording at the same time, but in different studios. *Elvis* was a big fan of *Roy's*. and always played his recordings at the house.

right: Nick Adams and *Elvis* on the set of "Follow that Dream". *Nick* and *Elvis* were very good friends. *Elvis* met *Nick* when he first came out to Hollywood in 1956, and they hung out together in the 50's. We only saw him once in a while after *Elvis* got out of the Army.

THE WEDDING

It was May 1, 1967, in Las Vegas, Nevada and it was one of the most exciting days I had during my 17 years with *Elvis Presley*. I was very honored to be one of the best men at *Elvis* and *Priscilla's* wedding. We started planning their wedding in December of 1966. It was very important that it be kept a secret. We didn't tell anyone until the last minute. Of course, *Elvis'* dad and *Priscilla's* parents knew. Rumors were starting to fly during the last few weeks of April. We drove down to Palm Springs just before the first of May. *The Colonel* was taking care of all the arrangements at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas. *The Colonel's* good friend, *Milton Prell*, owned the hotel at that time. They decided to have the wedding in *Mr. Prell's* apartment for security reasons. *The Colonel* had chartered two airplanes; one for *Elvis* and party, and one for all the family and friends. We had *Frank Sinatra's* Lear jet. *Elvis*, *Priscilla*, my wife, *Joan*, *George Klein* and *I* were on the Lear with the other plane as a larger prop plane. When the press found out that *Elvis*, family and friends were in Palm Springs, they all showed up outside of the house. They just knew *Elvis* and *Priscilla* were going to get married in Palm Springs. *Rona Barrett*, the reporter, followed one of the maids to the grocery store and started to talk to her. She offered her money to tell her when the wedding was going to take place but the maid didn't talk. The night before the wedding we had a plain four door sedan parked on the street behind the house. About 4:00 a.m., *Elvis*, *Priscilla*, *Joan*, *George* and *I*, snuck out the back of the house, over the fence, jumped into the sedan, and drove to the airport. We arrived at the private terminal, drove right up to the Lear jet and boarded the plane. It took about 45 minutes to fly to Las Vegas. *Elvis* and *Priscilla* were in great spirits. The other plane was set to leave later that morning with just enough time to get to the Aladdin Hotel to change and get ready for the wedding.

Elvis and *Vernon* in the Aladdin Hotel Suite. *Elvis* just got dressed in his Tuxedo. Notice *Elvis'* hair in these first three pictures with *Vernon.*

Elvis and *Vernon* in the Aladdin Hotel Suite.

Elvis and *Vernon* in the Aladdin Hotel suite.

L to R: Jerry Schilling, Billy Smith, Marty Lacker, Elvis, George Klein, Harry Levitch (the jeweler) , *Charlie Hodge*. I took the picture.

L to R: Marty Lacker, Elvis, George Klein, Harry Levitch, and *Charlie Hodge.*

Elvis, by himself.

Joseph Beaulieu (Priscilla's dad), *Elvis,* and *the Colonel.*

THE WEDDING IN LAS VEGAS

Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu were married in a double-ring ceremony at approximately 9:41 A.M. The ceremony lasted just eight minutes. Priscilla wore a white chiffon gown with a six-foot train, while *Elvis* wore a black tuxedo.

left: L to R: Justice David Zenoff, me, Elvis, Priscilla, Michelle and *Joan* taken during the ceremony. *Elvis* is just about to slide on *Priscilla's* ring. Notice me checking out the size of the diamond.

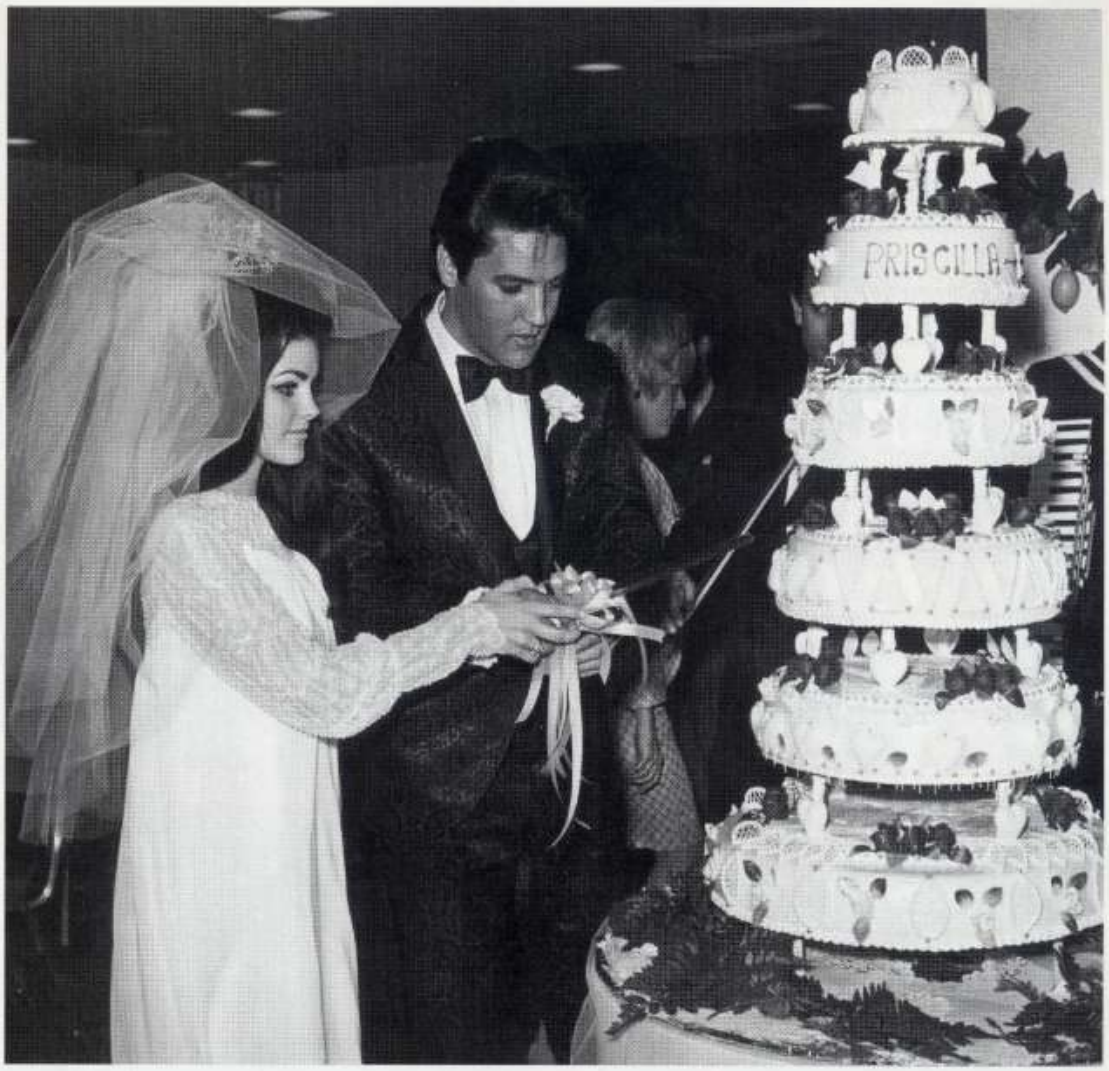
below: L to R Justice David Zenoff, me, Elvis, Priscilla, Michelle, and *Joan* taken during the ceremony. *Elvis* is sliding *Priscilla's* ring on.

This was taken right after the ceremony in *Mr. Prells* suite. *L to R: Me, Marty Lacker, Elvis, Priscilla, George Klein, Billy Smith* and *Marvin Gambill.* I signed the marriage certificate along with *Marty Lacker* as a witness.

THE RECEPTION IN LAS VEGAS

After the news conference, we went to a beautiful room that was set up for the wedding party. That's where the rest of the friends were waiting for us. They all congratulated *Elvis* and *Priscilla*. The *Colonel* had music, food, drinks and a beautiful wedding cake. We stayed for about an hour and then went back to our rooms to change for the trip back to Palm Springs.

Standing *L to R: : Harry Levitch, Richard Davis, Jerry Schilling, Joan Esposito, Sandy Schilling, Michelle Beaulieu, Dee Presley, Ann Beaulieu, Priscilla, Elvis, Vernon Presley. Kneeling L to R: Donnie Beaulieu, Joseph Beaulieu, Me,* and *Charlie Hodge.*



The wedding reception was held in one of the small convention rooms at the Aladdin Hotel. There were only a few friends and relatives at the party. *Priscilla* and *Elvis* cutting the cake.

HONEYMOON HIDEAWAY PALM SPRINGS, Honeymoon house.

After the reception, we flew to Palm Springs, to what is now known as the Honeymoon Hideaway. *Elvis, Priscilla, George Klein, Joan,* and *I* flew back on the Lear Jet. The other members of the group followed in the other plane. The cooks made a wonderful dinner for us. You can see by these photos that they were very happy.

left: Elvis, Priscilla and *Joan* watching me take pictures.

middle: Elvis hugging *Priscilla.*

below: Elvis and *Priscilla* . . . a toast to their wedding.

below: Elvis and *Priscilla* just talking about how the day went.

I took this during our wedding dinner. They look very happy here.

L to R: Sitting on the couch in the living room. *Elvis, Priscilla, Joan, Dee,* and *Vernon.*

WEDDING RECEPTION MEMPHIS May 1967, *Elvis* and *Priscilla* threw a wedding party at Graceland for friends and relatives that couldn't attend the wedding in Las Vegas. The party was held in the trophy room. There must have been about 150 people. It was catered and they had a second wedding cake made.

above: Elvis and *Pricilla* cutting the cake. *Elvis* has the little "Dennis the Menace" look.

They are both feeding each other. Cute!

Group shot. *L to R: My brother, Frank* , and his wife, *Jojo. Elvis*, *Priscilla, Joan,* and *me.* My brother flew down from Chicago for the party.

LAS VEGAS

On July 26, 1969, *Elvis* gave his first live show in almost eight years at the International Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The response was fabulous. *Elvis* broke all the attendance records for that first engagement. He grossed more that a million dollars in twenty- eight days for the International'showroom alone, not including the revenue he helped bring to the gambling tables. *Elvis* was amazed at the crowd's enthusiasm and hysteria. He just grinned and shook his head, mystified. During the show *Elvis* looked at the floor and spotted the letters "B.S." in marker pen. "It says 'B.S.' here", he told his audience. "Do you think they're trying to tell me something?" There was scattered laughter. "Oh...maybe it stands for Barbra Streisand." There was a roar of laughter.

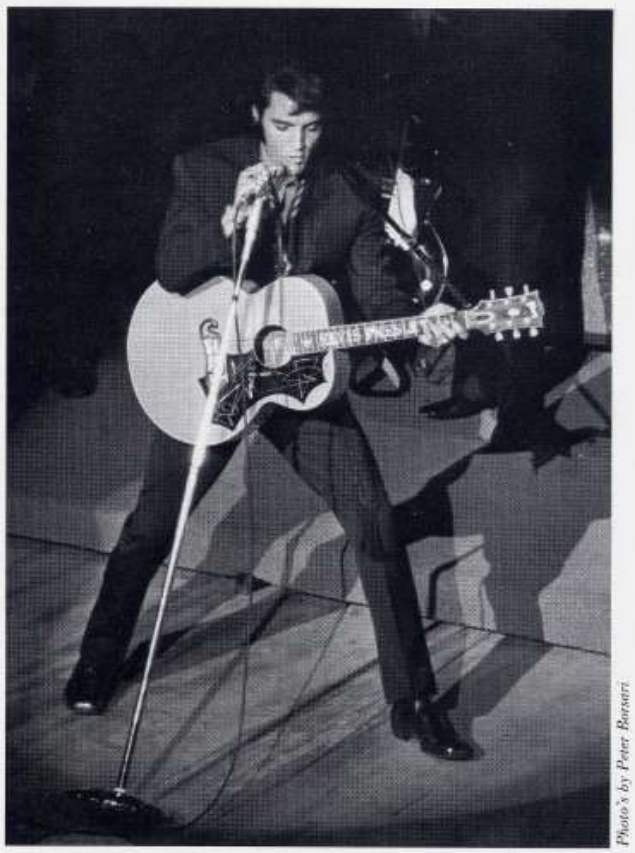
ELVIS IN LAS VEGAS

Taken on the stage at the International Hotel in Las Vegas. *Elvis* is wearing his Black Mohair suits designed too look like karate gee's.

I thought these were the best stage suits he wore but he kept ripping the seats out of the pants when he did his karate movies. That's when he had the jumpsuits designed.

Elvis with guitar on stage at the International Hotel in Las Vegas.

One time, when we were in Las Vegas, I received a showroom menu in an envelope that was just stuck in with the mail, with a death threat, and we called in the FBI. They took the envelope and menu, and checked it out for fingerprints. The FBI suggested to *Elvis* that he cancel his performance for a few days, until they could investigate further. *Elvis* would not even consider it. He said: "I'm not canceling the show for that no-good bastard. I wouldn't give him the satisfaction of stopping me!" Then he turned to me and said: "*Joe*, call *Ed Parker*, *Jerry Schilling* in L.A and *Red West* in Memphis, and tell them I need them here ." *Elvis* was angry and becoming more so by the minute. He kept asking, "What could I have done that someone would want to kill me? I try to make people happy with my music!"



Photo's by Peter Borsari

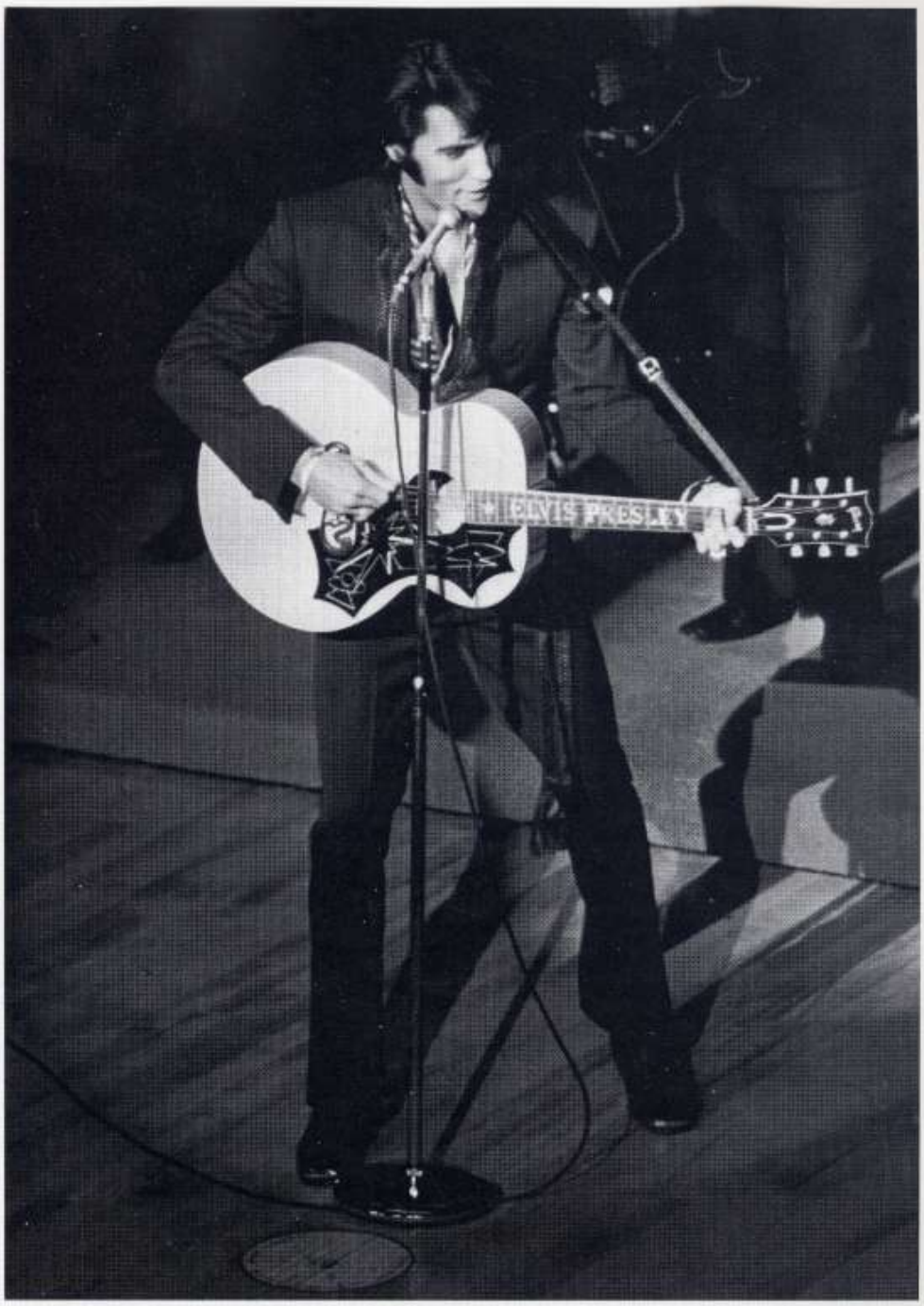


Photo by Peter Borsari

Notice in this photo the initials, "B.S." in marker pen in the round circle on the stage, facing *Elvis*.

1969 PRESS CONFERENCE

Immediately following the opening show, a press conference was held. The complete or partial footage and even the audio from this press conference has never been seen or heard by many of the *Elvis* fans, so here are highlights from that famous "I'm Back" press conference:

ELVIS' 1969 PRESS CONFERENCE

Q: Why have you waited so long to perform live again?
A: We had to finish up the movie commitments we had before I could start on this. I missed the live contact with an audience. It was getting harder and harder to sing to a camera all day long.

Q: Will you do more live shows?
A: I sure hope so. I want to. I would like to play all over the world. Yes, Britain of course is included. I chose to play Las Vegas because it is a place people come to from all over.

Q: Are you tired of your present type of movie?
A: Yes, I want to change the type of script I have been doing.

Q: Do you feel it was a mistake to do so many movie soundtrack albums?
A: I think so. When you do ten songs in a movie, they can't all be good songs. Anyway, I got tired of singing to turtles.

Q: What kind of scripts would you like to do?
A: Something with meaning. I couldn't dig always playing the guy who'd get into a fight, beat the guy up, and in the next shot sing to him.

Q: Did you enjoy performing live again?
A: (I was nervous and I didn't feel relaxed until after "Love Me Tender").

Q: How do you like the role of being a father?
A: I like it.

Q: Do you plan to add to your family?
A: I'll let you know.

Q: How does your wife feel about you being a sex symbol again?
A: We're planning to add to our family.
(The critics were ecstatic).

Q: What do you think of the Hollywood social scene?
A: I just don't go for it. I have nothing against it, but I just don't enjoy it.

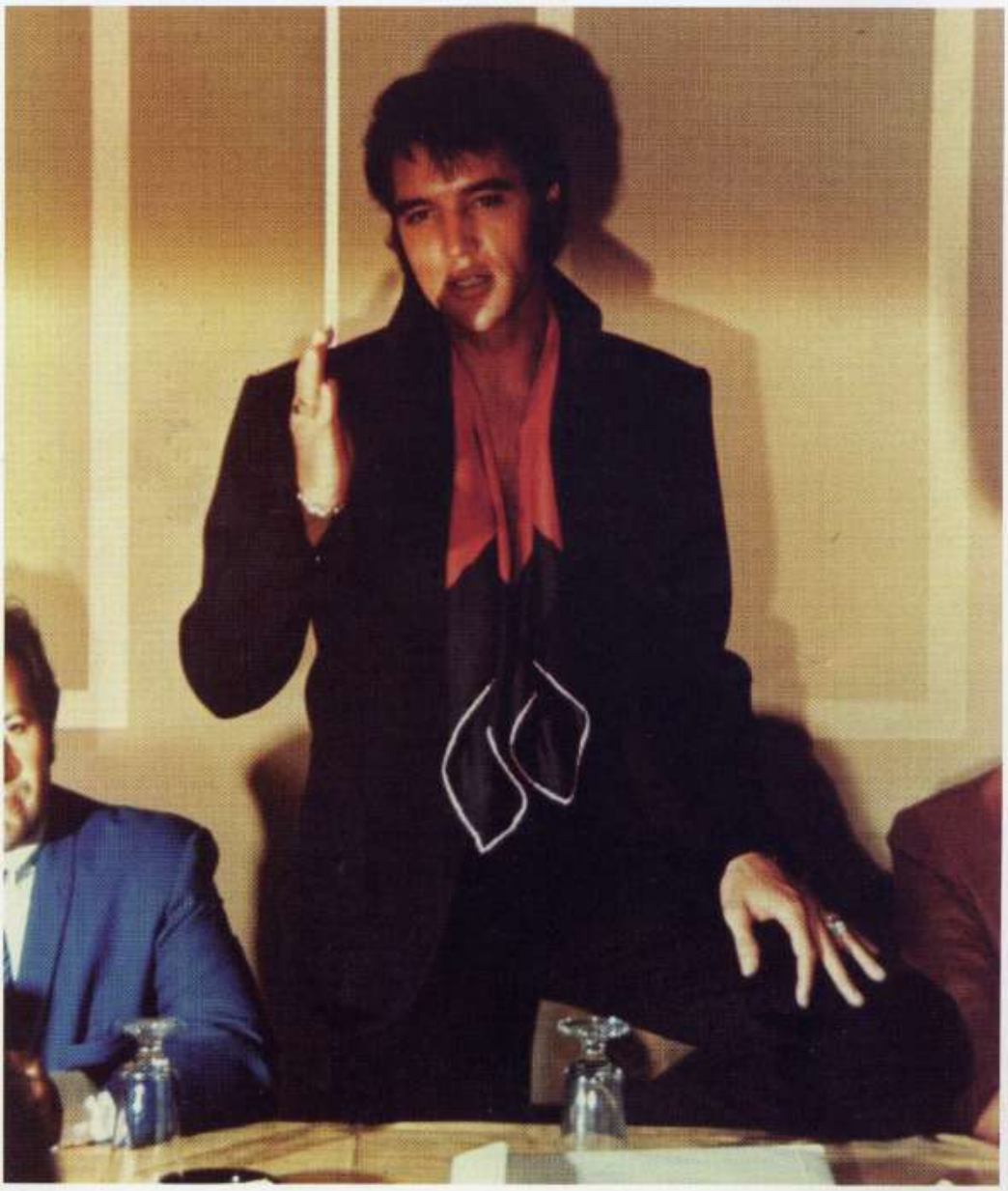
Q: How long did you rehearse for these shows?
A: I practiced for nearly three months. Today I went through three complete dress rehearsals. This was the fourth time I did that show today.

Q: Are you trying to change your image with songs like "In the Ghetto"?
A: No, "Ghetto" was such a great song, I just couldn't pass it up after I heard it.

Q: Why have you led such a secluded life all these years?
A: It's not secluded. I'm just sneaky.

Q: It is true you dye your hair?
A: Sure, I've always done it for the movies.

Going back on the road was really great. It was about the most exciting thing anybody could ever do. The excitement generated from the people, and the fans all around him made it very exciting... I mean, going to a show with 20, 000 people screaming and yelling and trying to get to *Elvis* was unbelievable. It was truly an experience of a lifetime.



Elvis during the press conference July 26, 1969, at the International Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

HOUSTON ASTRODOME

Houston Astrodome
Feb. 27th & 28th and March 1st, 1970

"Hey, *Elvis*, you're on right after the cows!", we kidded him. We had to lighten him up. The venue had a capacity of almost 60, 000; the largest audience *Elvis* had ever played to, and he was nervous.

ELVIS AT THE HOUSTON ASTRODOME

Kirk Kerkorian, the owner of the International Hotel, loaned *Elvis* his private DC-9 jet to take us to Houston. The band flew by commercial airline. *Red, Sonny, Jerry, Lamar, Charlie, Elvis* and *I* left Las Vegas on the afternoon of February 25th, for a fun-filled three hour flight. This was just before private planes became almost commonplace. *Kerkorian's* plane was divided into three rooms: a game room, a dining/conference room and a bedroom. *Elvis* had never seen anything like it. When we landed, *the Colonel* was waiting at the airport, along with some of his Texan friends and a few thousand screaming fans held back by a tall fence. *Elvis* strolled over to sign autographs for twenty minutes or so while the Memphis Mafia formed a protective barricade. Then we jumped into the limousines and headed for the Astroworld Hotel accompanied by a police escort. We had constant police escorts everywhere we went because *Elvis* was truly loved in Texas, going back to the early days when he had played small clubs throughout the state.

During that first time in Houston, we set the pattern for a routine we followed throughout *Elvis'* touring years. The limos pulled up to the rear of the hotel. We walked through the kitchen and went up to the suite via the service elevators. That became our usual mode of entry. *Elvis* never saw the lobbies of the many swank hotels where he stayed. His luxurious western-style suite overlooked the Astrodome. We sat around the dining room table and poured ourselves glasses of Mountain Valley water, which we always had waiting when we arrived. The windows in his bedroom were outfitted with blackout drapes so *Elvis* could sleep during the day. If, for some reason, the drapes weren't installed, we covered the windows with some opaque material. *Sonny* disconnected the bell to the phone in *Elvis'* bedroom. I had rented a spare room for his ten custom-made wardrobe cases. The hotel operators were instructed to route all calls for *Elvis* to that room. The fans would hear it ringing and they'd think they had reached *Elvis*. *Sonny* and *Red* set up security at the elevator on *Elvis'* floor with a list of people permitted to enter. All this became standard procedure. A Lear jet brought *Priscilla, Judy West,* Sonny*'s wife, and my wife, Joan*, to Houston. Then *Red, Sonny, Jerry* and *I*, rode over to the arena to look over the backstage setup and check its security. This was all new to us, and we were learning as we went along. After a few tours, everything fell into place and things ran like a fine tuned machine. Everyone knew his job and did it automatically. I simply told them when we were leaving for the show and everything was taken care of.

Elvis usually ate about two hours before the show. That first night in Houston, our wives joined us for dinner. Talk at the table focused on the immense size of the Astrodome. *Elvis* began dressing thirty minutes before we had to leave for the arena. *Red* and *Sonny* led the way, with *Elvis* and *me* following and the rest of the guys would bring up the rear. Each night we left the hotel, we used a different exit in order to avoid the crowds that had been tipped off to our plans by the hotel staff. We got a big kick out of winning that cat-and-mouse game with the fans. About fifteen minutes before *Elvis* was due onstage, we reached the arena so that he didn't have to linger backstage too long and build up a severe case of nerves. The Astrodome's revolving stage was proportionately small so, before the show, *Elvis*, a few bodyguards and *I*, circled the stands in a jeep to give the audience a closer look. *Elvis* stood up, hanging onto the roll bar with a white-knuckled grip, while *Sonny, Red, Jerry* and I sat in the back seat, awe struck. A ten-foot wall separated us from the stands and police held the people back, but quite a few fans tumbled over as they tried to get closer to *Elvis*. The stands were approximately one hundred feet away from a stage that rotated back and forth. *Elvis* wasn't crazy about this setup, but the audience roared throughout his entire hour-long set. We climbed back into the jeep to circle the arena again before we left through the backstage door to return to the hotel.

Elvis wearing a hat they gave him.

Elvis receiving another gift, a solid gold watch.

Elvis receiving awards and a platter from the gentleman who represented the Houston Live Stock Show. *L. to R. unkown, Elvis,* The *Colonel* with a cigar, and unknown.

Elvis getting ready to get on his bronco.

Elvis and the *Colonel* with old friends of The *Colonel.*

Elvis in the jeep, riding around on the infield, waving to the fans. *Sonny West* and *I* were in the back seat.

KARATE

Elvis got interested in karate while he was in the army. He read a story about an army sergeant *(Hank Slamanski)* who knew this old Oriental form of self defense. The story was that *Hank* entered a karate tournament in Japan and fought one hundred men in two days and beat them all. *Elvis* was very impressed. He wanted to learn this form of self defense. He found a German instructor and started taking lessons. Once a week, *Jurgen Seydel* would come to *Elvis'* house in Bad Nauheim and give *Elvis* a lesson. They would move all the furniture out of the living room and they would work out for a couple of hours. *Elvis* got very good. We even went to Paris, France on leave, so he could take lessons from a Korean Instructor, "*Murakami Tetsuji*". He also got to meet *Sargent Slamanski* after he got out of the Army. We contacted him and invited him to Memphis. He brought some of the men that worked with him. They spent a few days in Memphis and gave *Elvis* karate lessons.

ELVIS & KARATE

Elvis had many instructors over the years; *Ed Parker*, who ended up working for *Elvis*, and *Kang Rhee*, an instructor in Memphis. *Elvis* became friends with *Rhee* and his wife. I think *Elvis* is the one who really made karate popular in the United States. He would give demonstrations at the houses in Hollywood and Memphis. Word got around, and many of the celebrities started taking lessons.

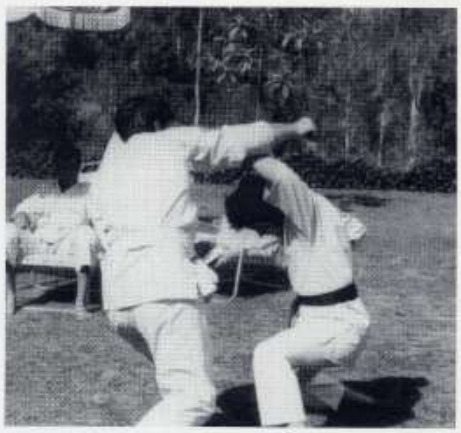
Elvis fooling around with *George DiDomizio*.

Elvis in his karate outfit.

Here is *Elvis*' explanation of Karate, as he told it on stage to his Las Vegas audience, August 30, 1974 at a 3:00 A.M. show:

> "There are a lot of people who know that I have been involved in the art of Karate for some time, but nobody knows to what degree, or whatever, you know".
>
> "Kung Fu and Karate are the same thing. There's no difference, it's just ah, the Chinese terminology is Kung Fu and Japanese is Ka-ra-te. The word Ka-ra-te, "Kara" means "open hand", I mean "open", "te" means "hand", . . . "Ka-ra-te".
>
> "Now about the belts. See, I've been doing this for sixteen years. I started when I was in the army, in 1959. I've been doing it every day of my life ever since. For at least two to three, six hours a day."

These pictures, and those on the opposite page, were taken in 1961 at *Elvis*' rented house at 525 Perugia Way in Bel Air, California. A good Army buddy, *George DiDomizio*, was out in California visiting us. *Elvis* was giving him a karate lesson in the backyard.



above left: Elvis working out with *Red West. Sonny West* (Red's cousin) is sitting in the chair.

above right: Red West and *Elvis* still working out.

right: Sonny and *Elvis* taking a break.

Elvis is daydreaming and George DiDomizio in the swimming pool.

left: Elvis and *Kang Rhee* kneeling as they both watch the karate class at Rhee Studio in Memphis (note the bruised wound on *Elvis* right hand).

right: Elvis not paying attention to what's going on!

above: Elvis applauding.

right: Elvis with glasses in hand, *Kang* and Kang's wife in a candid shot.

Elvis wearing glasses, *Kang* and Kang's wife posing for the camera.

Elvis and *Kang Rhee* watching the karate class.

Karate, class, group photograph. Bottom right, seated, is *Dave Hebler. (He worked with us.)*

1972 PRESS CONFERENCE

Live from the New York Hilton, *Elvis* gave a New York press conference. The following is a partial transcript of some of that historical Press Conference:

ELVIS' NEW YORK 1972 PRESS CONFERENCE

ELVIS: Do you mind if I sit down? First of all I plead innocent of all charges. (One of the lady reporters yells, "I love you, *Elvis*"- and he replies, "Thank you, dear, I love you too!")

PRESS: Why have you waited so long to appear in New York at Madison Square Garden?
COLONEL PARKER: Will you gentlemen get down in front, and get your pictures later?
ELVIS: I think it was a matter of getting the building, the right building. We had to wait our turn.

PRESS: How do you feel about appearing here?
ELVIS: I like it. . . I enjoy it, I hope we put on a good show.

PRESS: Why do you think you've outlasted every other entertainer?
ELVIS: I take vitamin E. I'm only kidding. I don't know, dear. I enjoy the business. I just enjoy what I'm doing.

PRESS: Over the years, everyone has said you're very shy. What do you think about that?
ELVIS: I don't know what makes them think that. I'm wearing this belt, ain't I?

PRESS: Elvis, what is that belt you're wearing?
ELVIS: The belt is an award from the International Hotel for the championship attendance record. It's like a trophy, but I wear it around here to show it off.

PRESS: Elvis, what kind of songs do you enjoy doing?
ELVIS: It's a conscious sort of thing. I like to mix 'em up, in other words; I like to do a song like "Bridge over Troubled Waters" or "American Trilogy" and do some rock and roll.

PRESS: Are you tired of the old stuff?
ELVIS: I'm not the least bit ashamed of "Hound Dog" or "Heartbreak Hotel."

PRESS: Elvis, can you see yourself retiring?
ELVIS: No, not really. I've got too much to do.

PRESS: Elvis, are there any new pop groups you particularly like?
ELVIS: I can't think of any one. I like a lot of them.
COLONEL PARKER: I'd like to live up to my reputation of being a nice guy. This is it, folks!
The press conference had lasted twenty minutes.

This photo was taken as we departed from the Fairmont Mayo Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. That's me with the sunglasses to *Elvis*'s right. You can see my TCB gold chain necklace. Most of the time we didn't know where we were. On tour with *Elvis* was just like some kind of Tornado.

Elvis live on stage shot.

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ALOHA FROM HAWAII

In January 1973, *Elvis* prepared for the first live show telecast by satellite around the world. What better entertainer than *Elvis?* His name was known around the world. This gave people a chance to see him for the first time. We arrived in Hawaii on Jan. 9, 1973. *The Colonel* had a helicopter waiting for us. *Elvis, Vernon, Red,* and *myself* boarded the chopper, and the rest of the guys went to the Hilton Hotel. We flew to the helicopter pad near the hotel. As we got near the hotel we could see hundreds of people waiting. They were all behind a fence. As we got off the chopper, *the Colonel* was waiting for us. The fans went crazy when they saw *Elvis*. He walked over to the fence and started signing autographs. The fans were giving *Elvis* beautiful flower leis. He had so many around his neck at one time that he couldn't see, so we had to take them off. We did this a couple of times, but we took them all to the hotel. After we got to our hotel suite we hung them all around the rooms. The place smelled wonderful.

ELVIS' ALOHA FROM HAWAII

JANUARY, 1973

We had a couple of meetings with the director, *Marty Pasetta*. He took us to the Honolulu International Center, where we were going to do the show. A percentage of the money was donated to the "Kuiokolani Lee Cancer Fund," in memory of the Hawaiian gentleman who wrote the hit song, "I'll Remember You", which *Elvis* also sang and recorded. *Elvis* said, "We expected to get $25, 000, and we raised $75, 000- thank you!" About a month before we were going to do the show, *Elvis* started to get himself in shape. He lost weight and looked handsomer then ever.

I was very surprised how relaxed *Elvis* was during the rehearsals and even before the show. He was very confident that it was going to be great. He even took a nap before we had to do the show. Something he never did. He even told Red, Charlie, and me to make the song lineup for the telecast. This was something he always did himself. On Jan. 14, 1973, at 12:30 am, the show was beamed around the world, and *Elvis* was beaming too. The rest is history. A first for *Elvis* and a first for the entertainment business. The show was broadcast in the United States on April 4, 1973, on NBC.

Elvis basically loved songs that were dynamic...he loved songs where he could use the full extent of his voice...He liked opera, believe it or not! No one song was his favorite but I know he loved songs with good lyrics...like "Hurt", "It's Now or Never," and "How Great Thou Art."

The last couple of years of *Elvis'* life were very tough. He was not happy. He was only happy when on stage. He worried a lot about getting older...would people still accept him as he got older?...What would he be doing, would he be as popular? There were a lot of pressures on him. People looked to him for income, he loved to make and spend money. So all he did was work.

CANDID SHOTS

Following are candid shots of *Elvis* from my collection. They are at vairous times and places...

GRACELAND - MEMPHIS, TENNESSE

Elvis bought Graceland in 1957 for his parents. Today, the beautiful antebellum mansion is shaded by tall graceful trees. When I arrived at Graceland, the seedlings had yet to be planted; it looked quite different. I have many great memories of Graceland. *Elvis* was always glad to get back home. *Elvis* always loved coming home to Memphis and Graceland. He loved it there. We'd see old friends, we'd catch up on all the movies, 'cause we'd rent the theater at night, we'd see all the first run pictures. We'd go to the amusement park, rent the park, and bring all our friends there and just do relaxing, crazy things in Memphis. Here are a few pictures of my days at Graceland.

I took this picture in September of 1961. It looks a little different today. All the trees are much bigger and the grounds are beautiful.

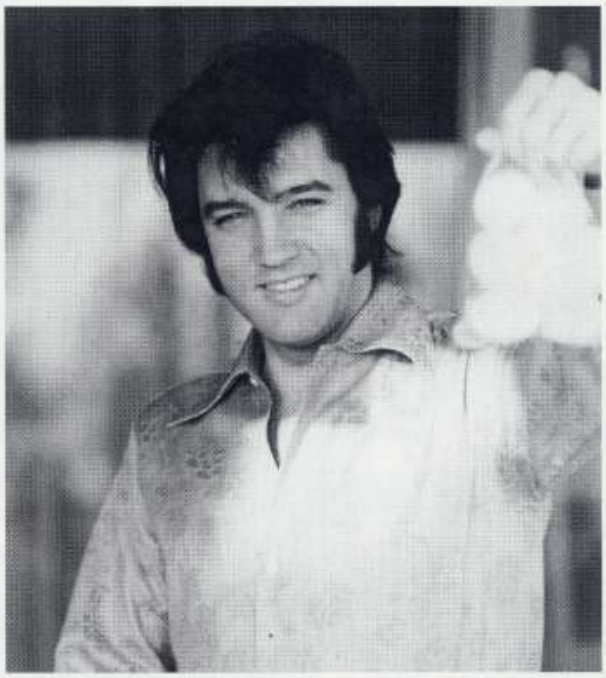
This picture was taken at the Fairgrounds in Memphis, in July, 1960. This was just one of the many nights *Elvis* would rent the grounds for himself and his friends. We would stay there all night just riding the rides and having fun.

Elvis riding his horse, Rising Sun, (Palomino) at Graceland.

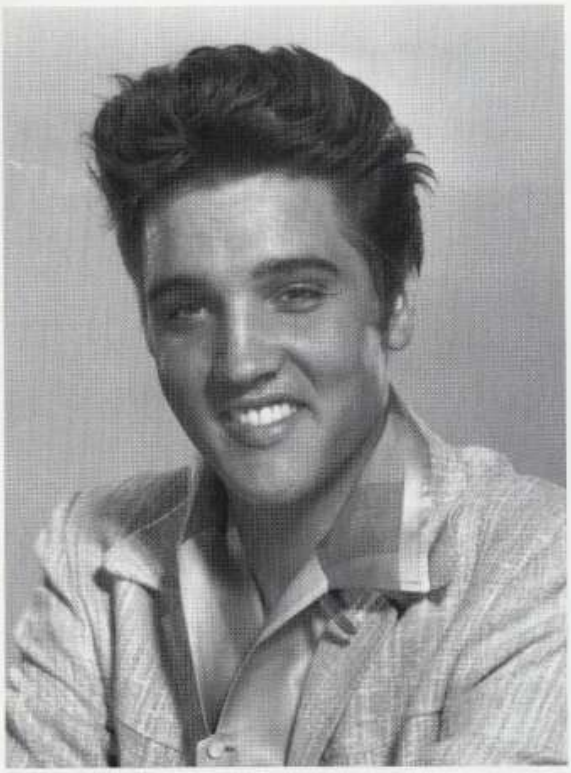
HILLCREST HOUSE - BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

above: These photographs were taken by *Peter Borsari*, the famous Hollywood photographer, at the Hillcrest house. We were just coming home after a day of shopping in Beverly Hills. I drove. That's *me* with the leather jacket, *Elvis*, and *Cliff Gleaves*.

I took this picture at the Hillcrest House in Beverly Hills. We would have an Easter egg hunt every year for our kids. This year was at *Elvis'* house. That's *Elvis* and my daughter *Cindy* looking for eggs.



Elvis found the most eggs that day. He was a bigger kid than the rest of the kids. You can tell how proud he was!



above: Elvis looking throught the camera between takes.

This was taken during the making of JAILHOUSE ROCK. These young ladies brought *Elvis* his fan mail from the M.G.M. studio mail room.

ELVIS & THE ARMY DAYS

I was drafted into the Army around the same time as *Elvis*. And like *Elvis*, I wasn't real excited about going into the service. Looking back of course, it turned out great for me.

Even before meeting *Elvis*, I was a fan. At that time, everyone was talking about *Elvis*. In fact, my friends in Chicago would kid me, saying, "Hey, if you get to meet *Elvis* while you're in the service, please tell him that your buddies said, "Hello." Sure, three million guys in the Army and I'm going to meet *Elvis*.

I was on the same base in Germany as *Elvis*, along with 3, 000 other soldiers . It just so happened that I was a friend of the photographer, Wes Daniels, who had been taking pictures of *Elvis* for the Army. He used to play football with *Elvis* on weekends and he invited me to play touch football with them, as they needed more players and that's how I met *Elvis*.

It's just amazing that I did meet *Elvis* . He was such a great guy, and we became friends right away.

Elvis in Germany 1959.

right: Elvis reading his fan mail.

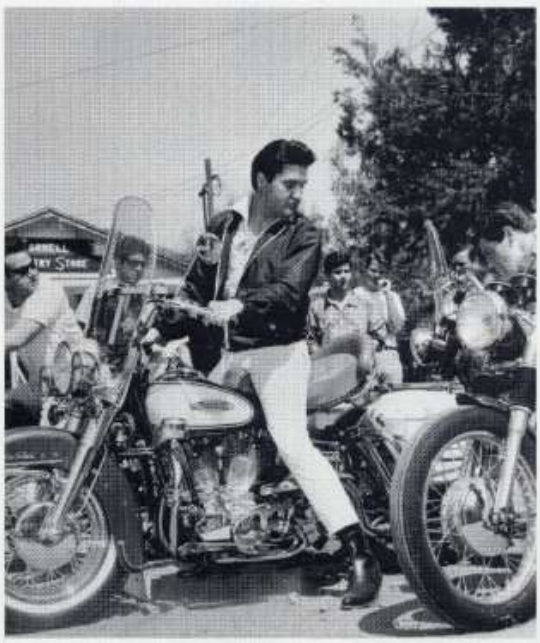
March, 1960, Fort Dix, NJ. *Elvis* and *Bill Greene*. This was taken just before they were both discharged from the Army. *Bill* is still a good friend today.

right: Elvis standing in front of his house in Germany. It looked like he just arrived from the base. This is one of the few pictures you see of *Elvis* wearing his helmet.

L to R: Ray Sitten, me, unknown, *Bullets Durgan, The Col., Mrs. Parker, Elvis, Larry Geller, George Klein, Alan Fortas, Marty Lacker* and *Richard Davis*. This was taken in front of The Col's office at MGM studios. *Elvis* gave The Colonel his own golf cart. It was for his birthday.

ELVIS & MOTORCYCLES

One day *Elvis* decided to buy all the guys motorcycles. He wanted us to ride with him. He told *Alan Fortas* to find Triumph 650 motorcycles for us. *Elvis* always rode a Harley Davidson himself; always rode the big HOG. That morning *Alan* called around town to see what he could find. He was having a problem because he couldn't find eight of them. He finely found a place in Hollywood on Santa Monica Blvd., Robinson's Motorcycle shop. The man asked *Alan* when we would want these bikes. He told him, *"this evening."* The man said that, *"that was impossible."* They had to assemble them. *"Well if you can't do it, we will go someplace else."* He told *Alan* he would call him back. 10 minutes later the phone rang and the gentleman said they would try. At about 10:00 PM that evening, here comes this truck to 525 Perugia Way, in Bel Air, Ca. with 8 brand new 650 Triumphs. Now this neighborhood is a very exclusive part of town. Not too many of the people that live there ride motorcycles. *Elvis* had *Alan* call all the guys together to wait for our new bikes. Now, I never rode on a motorcycle in my life as a passenger, much less operate one. Some of the guys knew how to ride. They all jumped on their bikes and took off. They must have awakened the whole neighborhood. It sounded like the Hells Angels had just arrived. It was very exciting. The next day, *Sonny West* taught me how to ride. It was a lot of fun. After a while, we got to be known as *"E's Angels"*.



This was taken on one of our many outings. We were up in the Angeles National Forest, up in the mountains. L to R: *Me* looking back, *Elvis* looking at *Jerry Schilling*, and *Jerry* checking something on *Elvis'* bike.

Same day, *L to R: Me* looking mean, *Elvis* , and *Deborah Walley*, (one of his co- stars from "Spinout")

ELVIS & OFFICIALS

This was taken during one of our many tours during the 1970's. We were in Birmingham, Alabama for a concert and we got word that *Governor George Wallace* was coming to the show. He wanted to come back stage to meet *Elvis* before the show. The state police brought *Governor Wallace* and his *wife* to the dressing room where this photo was taken. *Elvis* and the *Governor* talked for a few minutes before the show. *Elvis* introduced the Governor to the audience during a break in the show. We were very well liked in his state. L *to R: Jerry Weintraub, Col. Parker, Sonny West, Mrs. Wallace, Dick Grob, Red West, Me,* and *Elvis. Governor Wallace* in the front.

below: Elvis and gentleman whose name I don't remember. He was the Chief of Police of the city where we were playing that night. *Elvis* collected badges and many of the law enforcement agencies knew this, so it was a good way for them to get to meet *Elvis*.

right: L to R: Me, Alan Fortas, Ann Ellingtion, Elvis, Governor Bufford Ellington and Sonny West.

ELVIS VISITS THE U.S.S. ARIZONA MEMORIAL

My first trip to Hawaii with *Elvis* was in 1961. We were going there to do the movie, "Blue Hawaii". We all flew on United Airlines this time because *Elvis* said the boat trip he had taken before was too long. When we arrived at the Honolulu airport, the Colonel was there with hundreds of fans, hula girls, and a band, all waiting to see *Elvis*. He didn't disappoint them. He signed autographs for about 45 minutes.

The Colonel had a military escort waiting to take us to the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. We had all these motorcycle police around our limo. There were about 25 of them! We must have been traveling 60 miles an hour through downtown Honolulu, going through stop lights and everything! You would have thought the President of the United States was here. It was great. It was the first time I was ever in a situation like that, even *Elvis* was excited.

Before we went to Hawaii, a couple of the Colonel's good friends that lived in Hawaii told him that the U.S. Navy was having a hard time raising money to build a memorial at Pearl Harbor for the USS Arizona battleship that sank during the attack of December 7, 1941. The ship sank with over 900 Navy personnel on board. The Colonel never misses a trick. He went to the Admiral at Pearl Harbor and told him that *Elvis* was willing to do a charity show to start the memorial fund. The Colonel said since *Elvis* was going to be there to do a movie, this would be a great time to do it. *Elvis* and the Colonel paid to have all the band members fly there and got the hotel to give them rooms. No one was paid for their services. They all had to donate their time for the charity show. That's the only way *Elvis* and the Colonel would do it. Everybody had to buy a ticket. Even *Elvis* and the Colonel bought one! The Colonel made Hal Wallis the producer of the movie buy tickets for himself, his wife and staff. He wasn't too happy about that but *Elvis* put on a great show. Not too many people realize it was *Elvis* and the Colonel that really got the USS Arizona Memorial built.

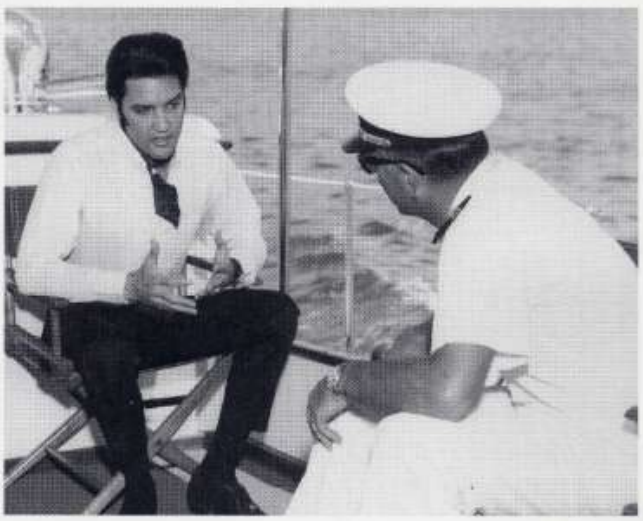
Elvis and *Priscilla* standing in front of the memorial.

Elvis signing autographs for the sailors. He would always take time for his fans.

above: Navy Officer explaining to *Marvin* and *Elvis* where the ship was hit by the bombs.

right: Same Navy Officer explaining that all the names listed on the wall are the men who sank with the ship. *L to R:* Officer, *Priscilla, Elvis, Charlie, me,* Security Officer and *Joan.*

Elvis, Priscilla, and *Sailor.* Posing for picture.



above: Leaving the memorial.

above: Elvis and *Navy Officer.* On Admiral's yacht.

below: Priscilla, Elvis, and Officer.

VACATIONS

One of *Elvis*' favorite places was Hawaii. *Elvis* felt very comfortable with the people there. I wasn't with him the first time he went there in 1957. He went by boat because he was afraid to fly then. It took them five days.

Elvis loved Hawaii ever since he had filmed "Blue Hawaii." He loved the beauty of the Islands, the weather was fabulous and the people treated him with respect. A group of ten or twelve of us began taking vacations in Hawaii. I noticed that every time we were preparing to go there, *Elvis* changed into an especially buoyant mood. On the flight over, he walked around the plane and chatted with strangers. He became a different person. "When I get off the plane in Hawaii, " he told me, "it's like a big weight is lifted off my shoulders."

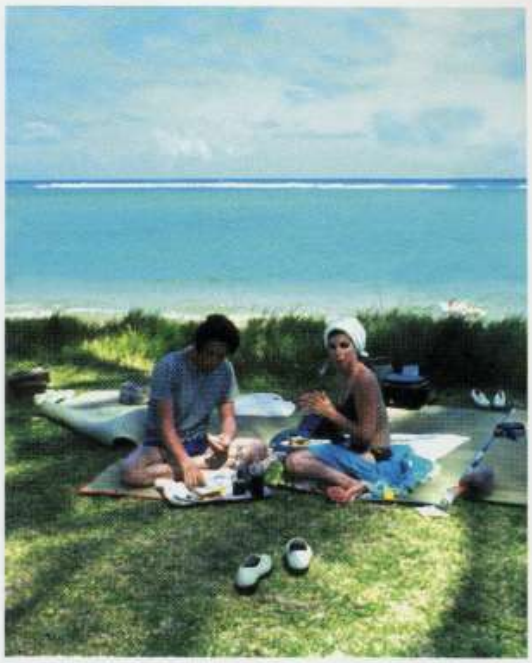
ELVIS ON VACATION

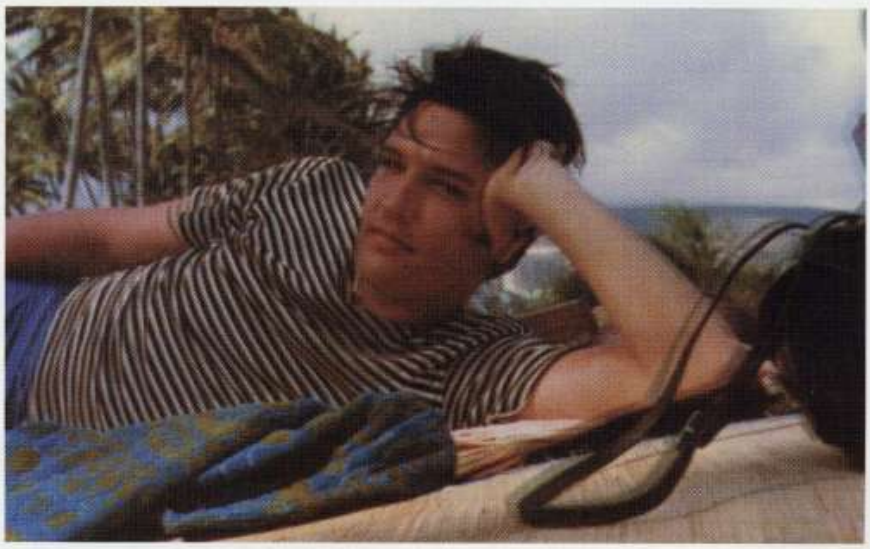
He loved to stay in the Rainbow Towers at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu. We would take half the top floor! We always rented a house in Kailua, on the other side of the island. The bay is beautiful, no coral on the beaches and they do a lot of wind surfing there. It's a great spot so we'd always find a house to rent there. We'd spend the days at the house picnicking, just relaxing and having fun. We'd spend the evenings in the hotel for security reasons...plus room service and all the other things at the hotel. In Hawaii, we were able to go out at night, have dinner and see a show. Unlike mainland fans, who hounded him wherever he went, Hawaiians left *Elvis* alone. Just being able to sit on a beach and not be bothered was a big day for *Elvis*! *Elvis* would even get up early in the morning in Hawaii.

Sight seeing, *L to R: Joan, Elvis,* and *Priscilla.*

Taken in the Illikai Hotel in Honolulu. *L to R: Elvis, Priscilla, Marvin Gambill,* and *Patsy Gambill.*

Elvis and *Priscilla* having a nice peaceful picnic at the beach, June 1968.





Elvis relaxing at the beach.

Priscilla, Nora Fike, Tom Jones, Patsy Presley Gambill, Joan Esposito, and *Elvis.* Taken at the beach house.

June 1969, *Elvis* going down a slide into the pool at a house in Hawaii as *Gee Gee Gambill* and *Charlie* look on and *Tom Jones,* on the right, watches.

L to R: Marvin Gambill, Lamar Fike, Tom Jones, Elvis, Me, and *Charlie Hodge* on his knees.

July, 1968, Hawaii, on a fishing boat. *Elvis* and *Charlie.*

Priscilla, and *Elvis* , same boat.

Elvis sitting smoking a cigar in his hut at the Coco Palms Hotel on Kauai. Looking like *John Lennon.*

You can see by some of the pictures that *Elvis* was happy just to be in Hawaii! Sometimes I think if *Elvis* had bought a home over there, just to get away, things would have been different. The last vacation *Elvis* took in March, 1977, was in Hawaii, just five months before he passed away. You can see he's having a great time... he had the greatest smile in the world. Over the seventeen years I was with *Elvis*, Hawaii was the one place he enjoyed most!

This was *Elvis*' last vacation. It was in March, 1977. He wanted to take *Ginger* to Hawaii. We flew over on the *Lisa Marie*. There were about eighteen of us. We had a lot of fun. We played at the beach all day. We rented a house on the quiet side of Oahu. We stayed at The Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel in the evenings. We would go out to dinner or to a Hawaiian show. He wanted to show *Ginger* around. *Elvis* was in a good frame of mind. We stayed about ten days.

Elvis having fun playing football.

Elvis and Larry Geller.

Elvis and Ginger Alden.

Shirley Diev and *Elvis*. Shirley is my former girlfriend.

Close up of *Elvis*.

Elvis was happy most of his life. The last years, he was not so happy. With no new challenges and in his forties, he did not know what the future would bring for his career. *Elvis* was always happy on stage when singing...that was his biggest joy in life...entertaining his fans and making people happy.

After working with *Elvis* I've had the pleasure of working with many other superstars in the business and I don't feel that any of them have the magic or charisma that *Elvis* had, or still has today. None could match him. Today the legend of *Elvis Presley* is so incredibly engraved in the mass consciousness, that his image appears not only on U.S. postage stamps, but it seems that not a day goes by without the mention of his name. Two decades after his death, *Elvis Presley* still reigns unchallenged as the *King of Rock 'n' Roll*, the greatest superstar this world has ever known. All the crude jokes and ugly rumors can't change the fact that there never was, or never will be, anyone like him...again.

Rock'n'Roll-Frühschoppen zur
Erinnerung an Bremerhavens
„Rock-Palast" der fünfziger Jahre

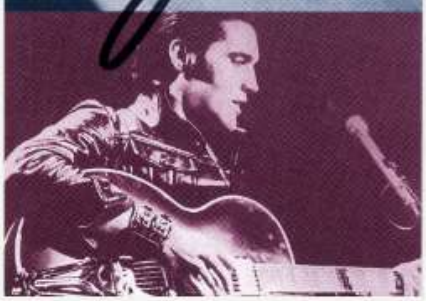
So., 4. Oktober 1998

Seebeck am Markt

Einlaß 10.[illegible] / Beginn 11.00 Uhr
Columbusbahnhof
Bremerhaven-Überseehafen
Eintritt DM 5,- wird auf den Verzehr
wird angerechnet

Veranstalter:
Arbeitsgemeinschaft [illegible]

Programmänderungen vorbehalten. [illegible] ausgeschlossen.
Beim Verlassen des [illegible] verliert die Karte ihre
Gültigkeit. Das Mitbringen von [illegible] und Getränken ist nicht
gestattet. Keine [illegible] für Sach- oder Personenschäden.



Die große Elvis Gala-Show mit
Premierenfeier des Musicals
„One Night – Elvis in Bremerhaven"

Sa., 3. Oktober 1998

Petticoat-Ball

Einlaß 20.00 Uhr / Beginn 21.00 Uhr
Columbusbahnhof
Bremerhaven-Überseehafen
Vorverkauf: DM 45,-
Abendkasse DM 55,-

Veranstalter:
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bremerhaven goes Rock'n'Roll

Programmänderungen vorbehalten. Rückgabe ausgeschlossen.
Beim Verlassen des Columbusbahnhofs verliert die Karte ihre
Gültigkeit. Das Mitbringen von Speisen und Getränken ist nicht
gestattet. Keine Haftung für Sach- oder Personenschäden.